

SENDIASS FAQs to the Local Authority SEND team

Q: How to access good quality, but reasonably priced, outdoor play equipment for children with disabilities

The cost of outdoor equipment can be **very expensive** and our SEND team have not been able to identify any companies specialising in disability equipment offering discounts at this time.



Some of our schools and settings in NE Lincs have been able to support families at home by loaning equipment from school. Having this conversation with your child's setting is always a good starting point.

Parents/carers might like to take a look at websites and links that support physical activities that do not require expensive additional purchases at this point. There are a wide variety of sites that offer top tips for all ages for both indoor and outdoor activities to keep kids moving. Here are a couple that may be of interest.

<https://www.cerebralpalsy.org/blog/outdoor-activities-for-children-with-special-needs>, <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/special-educational-needs/fun-things-to-try-with-disabled-children/> ,

Q: Transition back into school following the break

At this point in these uncertain times transition arrangements cannot be fully clarified. We understand this is a real worry for families and our Educational Psychologists are having conversations with families concerned about transition in their advice line conversations. NE Lincs will have a pack in place in the next few weeks for settings/schools and parent/carers to think about ways they may like to prepare children and young people for their next steps in alternative ways to those we have traditionally used in the past.

Q: School meals – some schools are unaware of process to access the voucher system

Each school has a LA link officer contact from the education management team. If schools are having difficulties they are able to discuss this 1:1 with their LA link. If parents/carers have any concerns we are happy to receive emails detailing their experiences and we will always try to help SEN@nelincs.gov.uk

Q: Is SENAG still operating/will parents still be advised of decisions as before?

Yes, LA duties regarding statutory requests for assessment of SEND, issuing of EHCPs and our weekly SEN Advisory Group panel meetings are still taking place albeit using secure technology to support these virtual meetings. We are pleased to say in March 2020 SENART issued all EHCPs within the statutory 20 week timescale.



Q: Transport to and from educational settings for those with EHCP's - does it still stand? A parent was trying to speak with transport but it just kept ringing out and no one was answering.

Yes, transport to access provision for vulnerable and key worker's children remains a priority. Please email john.oliver@nelincs.gov.uk with any queries. Alternatively feel free to contact the SEN team SEN@nelincs.gov.uk and we can pass them on. (Calls for some teams may be difficult to take at this time due to volume and staffing levels).



Q: Respite - is it still going ahead for those who currently access it? Will there be any additional capacity in the foreseeable future for new users?

A level of respite is still in place however safeguarding and health remains a priority and each case will require a different response in these unprecedented times. Families should contact their social worker for the best advice.

Q: Will School Admission Appeals still be going ahead and if so how?

Yes, please contact SchoolsAdmissions@nelincs.gov.uk with any queries.

Q: Who is the best person to ask if a parental request has been received?

SEN@nelincs.gov.uk The SENART team are working as usual - all be it remotely. Email is the best form of communication however calls can be made to 01472 323166

Q: Are LA still confirming with SU that they have received a PR with the usual letter?

We are trying to limit office working in line with govt recommendations to work from home wherever possible. This includes the frequency of post duties, photocopying etc. These tasks will still be completed but not on a daily basis.

We are asking, where possible, if parents/carers could help us by receiving their information by email rather than post. We will of course send by mail to any parents who are unable to access email, however there may be a longer delay than usual in using this method of communication.

Whilst the Covid-19 Act has now been brought into force, until such time as the Secretary of State issues a notice relaxing the sections of the Children and Families Act 2014, the Local Authority will continue with its usual processes, in line with the existing statutory provision. We are using our best endeavours to meet statutory timescales however there may be days on which timescales slip due to capacity relating to the effects of C-19 on working practice.

Q: Could we have a list of days and times that each coordinator is working?

Apologies but at the moment, whilst we take each day at a time, it is not possible to share this info. Any communication, questions



etc. should be sent to SEN@nelincs.gov.uk or phone number 01472 323166. This will enable a member of the SENART team to access the communication as soon as possible rather than waiting for a specific case worker, who may not be available.



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