

# Returning to school - Update for families of children and young people with SEND

Autumn 2020



## We're here for you

In September all children and young people will be returning to school. Many children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will return to school full-time and others will receive a temporary package of 'blended learning' (part-time at home and part-time at school), until they go back to school full-time.

We understand that this is a time of change for you and your family; you and your child may be feeling excited about the return to school or you may have some concerns. We want to reassure you that our SEND Inclusion services will resume support for your child in his/her school or setting in September. We will also continue to provide 'virtual' support, over the phone and via video, if your child has a phased return to full-time school.

This poster provides a summary of the latest information and advice for you.

## Latest advice

Returning to school and other settings is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. The Government's advice is therefore that all schools and settings should plan for a full return in the autumn term.

Schools and settings have been provided with guidance to help them put in place protective measures for children and staff. This includes updating and continually monitoring their risk assessments and minimising the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day.

[Read the Government guidance on reopening schools](#)

[Read the Government guidance on reopening special schools and other specialist settings](#)



## Education Health and Care Plans

We are working hard to ensure the Education Health and Care (EHC) process for children and young people is on track and we will continue to review this. We will continue to contact you by email, telephone or video call.

Face to face assessments for an EHC plan will now happen in school again. Our decision-making groups are remaining as online meetings because this has been such a successful way to bring people together!

## Support available to you

**The Parent Link Service** is available if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child returning to school. Our Parent Link Officers can provide advice and put you in touch with the right person. Call the Parent Link Contact Line on 0121 303 8461 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

### The Communications and Autism team (CAT)

is offering a back to school workshops and resources to help prepare your child to return to school and address issues that may be causing them anxiety.

[Find out more here](#) or email: [catparentenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:catparentenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk)

### The Birmingham Educational Psychology Team

have developed tips, advice and resources to help parents with having conversations about the return to school. [Find out more here](#)

### Sensory Support Service

provides help for families of children who are deaf or visually. To access support, email: [SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk) [Find out more here](#)

### Physical Difficulties Support Service

offers telephone advice and support for children with autism. To access the helpline, email: [PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk) [Find out more here](#)

There's lots of support available for families to help you to prepare for your child returning to school:

### Pupil and School Support

provides telephone support for children with general and specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia. To access the helpline, email: [LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk)

[Find out more here](#)

### Early Years Inclusion Support

Email [EYISParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:EYISParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) to access the Early Years Inclusion Support helpline for advice and support for your child. [Find out more here](#)

### Children's Occupational Therapy (OT)

Call 0121 466 5211 (open Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm).

[Find out more about Children's Occupational Therapy](#)

### Children's Physiotherapy

Call 0121 466 5193 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm) for clinical advice and support for your child. For other queries call 0121 466 5203. [Find out more about Children's Physiotherapy](#)

### Children's Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

Call the advice line on 0121 466 6231 (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday).

[Find out more about SALT](#)



**Contact** has lots of advice for families with disabled children about returning to school. Visit <https://contact.org.uk/> or call their free helpline on 0808 808 3555.



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