

# Risk assessment for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

Guidance for schools

Updated May 2020



The aim of this guidance is to support colleagues as you continue to re-assess risk, as it is inevitably impacted by any changes in circumstances, and so will require ongoing consideration as needs may change over time.

Please see the keeping in touch guidance for contact details to make referrals and access services. <https://www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-and-inclusion/coronavirus-covid-19>

*The Government guidance states that:*

*“Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school or college in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home.”*

*Where the risk assessment determines a child or young person with an EHC plan will be safer at home, the Department for Education (DfE) recommends they stay at home. Where the risk assessment determines a child or young person with an EHC plan will be as safe or safer at an education setting, DfE recommends they attend the education setting.*

There is no requirement for schools to provide the Local Authority with individual risk assessments for every child with an EHCP. **However, we recommend that schools keep a written record of the risk assessment, including details from conversations with the parents and carers, in case the Local Authority is asked or needs to review the decision.**

Professional judgment of all the professionals involved when assessing risk for individual children is the overall deciding factor if a child is safer at home or at school. **Parents and the CYP (where appropriate/possible) should always be part of the decision-making process. If the child has health and/or care needs the appropriate health or social care professional should also be involved in determining the level of risk.**

We suggest considering these questions when making your decisions and identifying the level of risk for each CYP (child/young person). The first 5 questions are taken from NASEN advice for carrying out risk assessments.

<https://nasen.org.uk/news/covid-19-important-information-and-faqs.html>

1. What are the potential health risks to the CYP from COVID-19? (bearing in mind any underlying health conditions)
2. What is the risk to the CYP if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all?
3. What is the risk if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting?
4. What is the ability of the individual's parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely?
5. What is the potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered?

### Additional vulnerabilities:

6. Does the CYP have complex behaviour needs which will be challenging for the parents to manage over a long period of time?
7. Is the CYP looked after or previously looked after?
8. Is the CYP subject to a child protection plan?
9. Has the CYP or family previously had social worker involvement?
10. Is the CYP on the edge of social care involvement or pending allocation of a social worker?
11. Are there any additional pressures on the family? Living with elderly relatives, living with siblings with additional needs, financial pressure/poverty, difficult housing conditions, concerns for the parent's mental health, wellbeing.

### Level of risk:

Considering the questions above and other factors you are aware of, agree the level of risk for the CYP.

Low Risk	The CYP is safely cared for and supported at home. Recommended – weekly contact from the school to establish level of risk remains low
Concerns	School has made referrals to the appropriate service School has sign posted parents to support available These have been discussed with either your EHCCO or the social worker as appropriate Recommended – Regular (2xweek) contact from the school
High Risk	Child is in school or is being actively encouraged to attend school Regular discussion with social worker and EHCCO to agree actions Recommended - Daily contact from school or appropriate agency

The level of contact the school has with the family should be in line with the level of risk identified and the school ( as the professionals know the child and family best) needs to be satisfied with that the contact is efficient to ensure the safety of the CYP. Any concerns with contacting the family should be reported to the EHCCO and/or Social care/worker.

### Recording

Schools can record the results from the risk assessment meeting in any way they wish. The risk assessment template can be used for guidance. You can also use the keeping in touch guidance to support with ongoing risk assessment of your students.

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-and-inclusion/coronavirus-covid-19>

### Sharing information with the LA:

Please contact your EHCCo (Education, Health and Care Plan Co-Ordinator) with any concerns or if it is a serious safeguarding risk please follow your safeguarding procedures and contact Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS):

Tel: 020 8825 8000 (option 1)  
Email: [ECIRS@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:ECIRS@ealing.gov.uk)

Please note on the weekly survey that you have concerns about **children in your school so the LA can follow up in the best way.**

### **Referring to the Ealing Dynamic Support Register:**

You may have seen in the recent SEND Risk Assessment guidance the following paragraph regarding the Dynamic Support register:

*“If a child or young person has a diagnosis of a learning disability (such as a profound and multiple learning difficulty, or a severe learning difficulty), autism or both, and behaviours that challenge or a mental health condition, the risk assessors should ensure, with the agreement of the family, that the child is identified on the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group dynamic support register (see the nasen guide [Improving Health Care: learning disabilities and autism](#) for further information).”*

The Dynamic Support Register is held by the CCG to ensure effective co-ordination of support for Children and Young People with Autism and/or Learning Disability who are most at risk of residential or hospital placement.

Referral to this register is via front-line CAMHS practitioner or Social Worker. If you are concerned about children or young people with learning disabilities autism or both, who present with behaviours that challenge or a mental health condition, please discuss with the child's allocated social worker / CAMHS practitioner or ECIRS if they do not have an allocated social worker (or the Contact Centre for adults)