

## FAQs for pupils with sensory impairment needs (HI/VI/PNI) regarding Coronavirus

### Vision impairment

<p><b>My school is preparing work for a blind student using Braille who is working from home to be accessed online. How can I ensure the student can access this work?</b></p>	<p>Please follow all advice given by your usual QTVI. You can send documents in Word directly to the student by email who should be able to access them via their Brailenote or other home equipment such as an orbit reader and iPad. In addition hard copies of Braille (such as transcribed PowerPoints or worksheets) can be sent to the pupil free of charge by writing on the envelope "Articles for the Blind: Freepost.</p> <p>If you are teaching using video, please speak clearly and slowly to enable the student to take notes and include added description of any pictures or diagrams.</p> <p>If you need further advice, please contact your student's usual QTVI. If you are unaware who that is please contact the team lead, <a href="mailto:kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk">kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk</a> who will help you contact the right person.</p>
<p><b>My school is supporting a student who uses enlarged print. They will be accessing the work remotely online. How do I ensure my pupil can access this work?</b></p>	<p>Please follow all advice given by your usual QTVI. Please present all text in a clear uncluttered format, and avoid text boxes, text across pictures and text that is too pale. If you need further advice, please contact your student's usual QTVI. If you are unaware who that is please contact the team lead, <a href="mailto:kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk">kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk</a> who will help you contact the right person.</p>
<p><b>Can our pupils with a vision impairment continue to get specialist support when schools close to most pupils?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Parents/carers and teachers should email their current QTVI in order to continue to access specialist educational support from our service. Please be clear about what support you require when making the request. We can offer remote support and may be able to offer school visits in accordance with the latest government advice on self-isolation and risk management. Please contact <a href="mailto:kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk">kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk</a> if you do not know the name of your QTVI.</p>
<p><b>How can I ensure my student with vision impairment has accessible reading books whilst they are working from home?</b></p>	<p>There are a variety of sources of accessible reading books in Braille and Large Print and audio. The <a href="#">RNIB National Library for the Blind</a> provides all three for children.</p> <p><a href="#">Seeing Ear</a> runs the National Accessible Library. Books can be downloaded and read on a laptop or on a Braille display.</p>
<p><b>My school is expecting a new pupil in September who has a vision impairment. Can we be supported to prepare for this transition if the schools are mostly closed after Easter?</b></p>	<p>Whilst it is unsure when our VI team will be able to visit to assess the school site and give recommendations, we will support you remotely as best as possible until we can do so. We can provide you with general information on how to support a pupil with VI and will be focussing on supporting the pupil individually in September. Please</p>

	contact <a href="mailto:Elliot.filer@essex.gov.uk">Elliot.filer@essex.gov.uk</a> , our Registered Habilitation Specialist for further information.
<b>I have a student in my school who accesses their work through specialist equipment provided by the Essex VI team. May the student take this home over the shutdown period to enable them to access the work we are sending home? What happens if the equipment stops working whilst it is at home?</b>	The student may take this home providing it can be covered on insurance. If it stops working, or you need further guidance on using it please contact the student's usual QTVI. If you are unaware who that is please contact the team lead, <a href="mailto:kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk">kay.leeser@essex.gov.uk</a> who will help you contact the right person.
<b>I need guidance on useful and or/accessible websites to share with parents for a student with vision impairment in my school whilst the school is mostly closed.</b>	<a href="#">Free audio books</a> <a href="#">Phonics activities for nursery – year 2</a> (username: march20 and password: home) <a href="#">Free eBooks</a> <a href="#">Literature books and study guides</a> <a href="#">Children classic PDFs and Audiobooks</a> <a href="#">Classic literature</a> <a href="#">Tactile activities</a> <a href="#">Crafts for younger children</a> <a href="#">Useful website</a>

## Hearing impairment

<b>Our school have put in place measures to ensure that all our children/young people can continue to study 'remotely'. How can I be sure that our deaf/hearing impaired learners will be able to access this learning?</b>	Please continue to follow any advice you have been given regarding the access of individual deaf/hearing-impaired learners to online learning. Please ensure that all tasks set are appropriate for all learners. It is likely that many deaf/hearing-impaired learners will not be able to access learning that requires them to listen to spoken content unless it is delivered by a live person speaking in front of them. Many will only be able to access video content that has subtitles, and some will need sign support. If in any doubt at all about the accessibility of the learning resources that you are providing or to access additional resources from our specialist teachers and support staff, please email the child/young person's current Teacher of the Deaf. If you are unaware who that is please contact the team lead, <a href="mailto:matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk">matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk</a> who will help you contact the right person.
<b>Can our deaf and hearing impaired-children/young</b>	Yes. Parents/carers and teachers should email their current Teacher of the Deaf in order to continue to

<p><b>people continue to get specialist support when schools close to most pupils?</b></p>	<p>access specialist educational support from our service. This will continue to be the case whether the child/young person is in their home setting or attending school as either a vulnerable child, a child with an EHCP or the child of a keyworker. Children receiving Sign Language Instruction will also continue to be supported and parents/teachers should contact their Sign Language Instructor to access this. Support from this service will be delivered in a variety of ways depending on each individual case and need. This may include support via on-site visits, email, Skype and phone. Please email Matthew Bysouth, the Lead Teacher of the Deaf at <a href="mailto:matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk">matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk</a> if you do not have the teacher of the deaf or sign language instructor contact details that you need.</p>
<p><b>Some deaf/hearing impaired children/young use a radio aid supplied by Essex County Council in order to access learning and communication when in school. Can pupils take their radio aid home in order to use it in the home setting? How will this be supported?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Please discuss taking the radio aid home with all relevant parents/carers and the children/young people using them. All equipment taken home must be logged by school staff as having been taken home. Please ensure that you inform your teacher of the deaf by email that the equipment has been taken home. The teacher of the deaf will directly support the family in using and maintaining the equipment at home. If you do not have the contact details for your teacher of the deaf, please email the Lead Teacher of the Deaf at <a href="mailto:matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk">matthew.bysouth@essex.gov.uk</a></p>

## Physical and Neurological impairment

<p><b>Our school has put in place measures to ensure that all our children/young people can continue to study 'remotely'. How can I be sure that our learners with a PNI will be able to access this learning?</b></p>	<p>Please continue to follow any advice you have been given regarding the access of individual learners with a PNI to online learning. Please ensure that all tasks set are accessible to those pupils. Please contact your PNI Specialist Teacher if you require support with this. Essex Music Hub have music services called "Charanga" and "O-Generator", which schools can sign up for. Please contact <a href="mailto:jo.lambert@essex.gov.uk">jo.lambert@essex.gov.uk</a> if you do not know the name of your PNI ST.</p> <p>Crick Software is offering every school free access for their pupils and teachers to use on their home devices:</p> <p><a href="#">Clicker</a> for primary schools – works on iPad, Chromebook, Windows &amp; Mac.</p> <p><a href="#">DocsPlus</a> for secondary schools – works on Chromebook, Windows &amp; Mac.</p> <p>To access the software, <a href="#">complete this access request form</a> and they will send access codes and installation instructions</p>
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<p><b>Can our pupils with a PNI continue to get specialist support when schools close to most pupils?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Parents/carers and teachers should email their current PNI Specialist Teacher in order to continue to access specialist educational support from our service. Please be clear about what support you require when making the request. We can offer remote support and may be able to offer school visits (not home visits) in accordance with the latest government advice on self-isolation and risk management. Please contact <a href="mailto:jo.lambert@essex.gov.uk">jo.lambert@essex.gov.uk</a> if you do not know the name of your PNI ST.</p>
<p><b>We have a child with a medical need – how do we continue to support this child?</b></p>	<p>Please continue to follow the child’s daily health care plan. If you have difficulties with this and/or additional staff require training, please refer to your local NHS community nursing team for advice.</p>
<p><b>Some children with a PNI use equipment and assistive technology, such as specialist keyboards and mice, supplied by Essex County Council in order to access learning and communication when in school. Can pupils take their equipment home in order to use it in the home setting? How will this be supported?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Please discuss taking the equipment home with the child/young person and carers. All equipment taken home must be agreed by school staff with parents/carers and be recorded in school as having been taken home. Please inform your PNI Specialist Teacher by email that the equipment has been taken home. The Specialist Teacher will support the family remotely in using and maintaining the equipment at home. Please do not allow postural equipment to be taken home such as standing frames and supportive seating. Smaller, more portable items, such as walking frames can go home if agreed with the relevant health professional. Please ensure a record of this is kept in school.</p>
<p><b>Are there any useful websites and apps we can suggest to parents?</b></p>	<p>If a child has a specific condition, there is often a charity website associated with this, such as Muscular Dystrophy UK and Scope. Lists of Apps and other useful websites will be available shortly on the <a href="#">Essex Local Offer</a>. You can also direct parents to our <a href="#">Pinterest Page</a></p> <p><a href="#">Free access to cause and effect games</a> (for 14 days)</p>
<p>There may be children leaving your school at the end of this academic year or joining your school at the start of the new Autumn term. We are aware that some of these children will require building adaptations; specialist equipment to be moved; staff to be trained or other special transition arrangements. As a team we will endeavour to support to you as far as possible with this and are in discussions with colleagues about ongoing building adaptations and arrangements for equipment transfers. If you have training needs relating to a medical condition, please contact your local community nursing team or paediatric therapy team.</p>	