



South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust

Covid 19 Emergency Policy

Approved by the Trust Board 3rd July 2020

Current Status: Finalised

This Policy will be reviewed weekly until the end of the Covid 19 crisis at which point the Trust Board will formally repeal it.

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Introduction

The national emergency due to the Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented change to the educational system and a sharp focus that places the welfare and health and safety of the schools and their communities above all other consideration.

As a result of this crisis, many of our policies can no longer be enacted. This is partly due to the different model of 'Educare' in operation and partly due to the, often daily, changes in government policy and directives.

Overarching statement

During the Covid 19 pandemic, the Trust Board reserves the right to allow all Headteachers, CEO and CFO to modify any agreed policy without notice and override the conditions and requirements of any policy without notice provided that all of the following conditions apply:

- This change is considered to be a reasonable response to the conditions of the crisis;
- The change is taken in the interests of staff, student or community safety;
- Carrying out the original policy would create conditions that would involve greater potential risk;

The modification in policy must be reported to the CEO who is therefore able to keep the Trust Board and LGCs informed through adding these conditions to this Covid 19 Emergency Policy, and re-circulating it, highlighting any changes. Wherever possible, such modifications should seek agreement from the CEO prior to their application.

This policy ceases to be applicable as soon as schools return to full occupancy.

Modified policies

SMART - Covid 19 – Supplier Relief Policy

In March 2020, the DfE published the Procurement Policy Note 02/20 which sets out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of their suppliers to ensure service continuity during and after the coronavirus, Covid-19, outbreak.

The PPN 02/20 applies to MATs as they are classed as a Contracting Authority. The policy covers all public bodies with contracting arrangements with suppliers to ensure that they are best supported during the outbreak.

The DfE has used a 5-stage approach which is intended to provide academy trusts with overarching guidance and principles to best implement this PPN.

SMART has used this guidance to help inform the best and most effective methods of dealing with its suppliers during this time.

SMART - Covid 19 – Appendix to the Safeguarding Policy

An agreed appendix has been added to the safeguarding policy to ensure that new and potential risks have been mitigated. This has been agreed through LGC and Trust Board. Please see the website of each school for the current Annex. The link for Looe appears below by way of example.

[Annex D to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)

SMART - Covid 19 – Amendments to behaviour policy

During this crisis, children are either in a vulnerable/keyworker group and expected to be provided with a place or they are in the group that could be offered an optional place. Of these there is a sub group of those for whom the risk assessment dictates we should take every step to ensure attendance or have regular contact.

Vulnerable/Keyworker group – Each school has considered modifications that would enable children to remain safe should their behaviour cause them to break social distancing or hygiene rules. Given the need to protect these children, these measures have sought to remove the possibility of exclusion and look for alternatives on site which usually involve moving them to an isolated location that is supervised. This has not removed the ability of the Headteacher to follow the existing exclusion policy and governor involvement where this is required in more severe cases.

Optional groups – In all other cases, if children knowingly behave in ways that increase risk through not observing social distancing or hygiene rules then the schools have agreed to rescind the offer of their place as a sanction designed to protect them and others. Such decisions will then be reviewed each half term and whenever significant new Covid 19 conditions are announced that result in increased numbers being invited in.

These modifications to policy follow these common principles but in terms of their procedures for utilising them, are school specific and are shown on the individual school sites.

SMART - Covid 19 – EHCP reviews

The government has accepted that EHCP and multi agency reviews cannot readily take place under Covid 19 conditions and equally, some of the agreements within the plans cannot be met such as one to one support when school is not in session.

Despite this agreement, schools continue to make every reasonable effort to remain in contact with parents or carers, in order to seek agreement for interim measures that ensure the child's safety, the safety of others and recognise the constraints imposed by the Covid 19 crisis.