

EDUCATION UPDATE

FOR SUNBEAM FOSTER CARERS

We are now in another three weeks of restricted contact and for a number of our children and young people they continue to attend school and maintain a good level of structure of school life.

For other children and young people it has been not possible to continue attending. If however your circumstances have changed and the Looked After Child or Young Person would like to return to school and it is safe for them to do so, please contact the school as places are still available.

For those children and young people who are being home schooled we hope this is going well – we appreciate that children and young people are not use to this learning setting and for some this will be increasingly difficult so as carers we will have to be very creative in what they will be able to learn and achieve. The most important part to learning is that they maintain their interest and desire to learn even if it may well not be exactly what the school have set. If school work is creating upset and problems foster carers will need to re-think about how we can still get the best out of the child/young person despite these difficult times.

Under the Government Guidance – To get help with technology for remote education during COVID-19 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>) – they have recommended the BBC website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons> where each year group there is different lessons being provided on their various subjects.

For some children having a third party undertaking the teaching it may well make it easier for them to learn. Each lesson has a video and then an activities are set afterwards to complete. It is very structured and the work has already been planned for you and very easy to navigate. If children and young people are struggling to learn from what is being set by the teacher please have a look at this as it is a different method of learning and may well be helpful. Please also check this out with the class teacher or Year Head as the most important part of all this is that they are retaining their skills to concentrate and expanding their minds to different information.

For some children and young people they may well be able to do more than what the teacher sets and the above would enable to child/young person to learn more independently which will hopefully free up the time for yourself. Foster carers may even want to state it has been set by the teacher especially for the younger children who may well be more willing to do more if they think the teacher has set it.

There is also now Government guidance around ensuring that all children and young people have access to a lap top – if there is a lack of technical resources within your home please discuss with your

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supervising social worker and we will follow up with their Children's Social Worker and Virtual Head to ensure that they do have suitable technology as quickly as possible.

Overall teachers are highly skilled to get children back on track with their education however what is much more harder to resolve is any social-emotional trauma that prevents their brain from learning. So really our main priority is to remain calm with our children, laugh a lot and connect with them that everything will be OK.

Please keep discussing any issues or concerns you have about education with your supervising social worker and also please attend each Regions regular support groups where we can share ideas and methods in how we are managing this new role as a teacher within our home.