

## ARUN COURT SCHOOL



### 'Building Resilience & Perseverance'

Arun Court School has a clear remit of taking students who have suffered a mental health breakdown, making them well through intensive therapy held within a school setting, then slowly re-introducing them to learning. The school has a clear aim to return students to non-independent settings once they are mentally well and when they have 'closed the gap' in their academic learning. We aim that students leaving us are re-entering the system at the point that they would have been at if a breakdown had not occurred.

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### Interim Annual Review Policy & Statement

The purpose of the annual review process is to consider the special educational needs (SEN) support that has been in place for the last 12 months and to determine whether any adjustments to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are necessary.

Paragraphs 9.166 – 9.185 of the SEND Code of Practice 2015 cover the function of the annual review including what should be discussed, how it is to be arranged and what actions should be taken following the review.

The old code of practice set out that a Statement of Special Educational Needs (which EHCPs are now replacing) should be reviewed at least every 12 months. It also provided that an interim (or early) review should be called when the child was at risk of "disaffection or exclusion". The new SEND Code of Practice 2015, the Children and Families Act 2014 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2015 do not however make any reference to an interim (or early) review of an EHCP. It is unclear whether this is oversight or a deliberate omission, however a review process is obviously needed if a student's placement is at risk due to the setting not being able to fully meet the EHCP needs, or other needs that the student is currently displaying, as all schools have a legal duty of care.

Paragraph 9.193 does suggest that if there is a substantial change in education, health or care needs then the local authority should consider whether to conduct a review or a re-assessment. Conversely if the provision is concerned that they can no longer meet the needs of the young person as specified in the EHCP a review process will need to be called.

An 'emergency' 'early' or 'interim' Annual Review can be requested by Arun Court School, The Local Education Authority or Parents / Legal Guardians.

#### Why may Arun Court request such a review?

Arun Court School may request such a review for one, or a combination of, the following reasons:

- Due to urgent changes required to an EHCP due to a change of diagnosis, a perceived need for an investigation of diagnosis, due to new behaviours
- Due to the current presentation of the child meaning that their attendance has dropped below 95% for a significant period and/or that their participation has significantly reduced
- Due to a child being hospitalised and / or sectioned / signed off from education by their doctor
- Due to the school feeling that they cannot meet need in terms of either the EHCP or parental requests/demands
- Due to the school feeling that the funding for the student needs to change either from 'standard' to 'intensive' in order for us to meet need, or from 'intensive' back down to 'standard' where significant progress has been made
- Due to the school feeling that the student is ready to attempt a transition back to a non-mental - health based setting
- Due to a serious assault, or other serious behaviour concerns, meaning that we feel that the placement is not safe for the student, staff and peers

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#### **Why may a Brokering LEA request such a Review?**

- Due to concerns over value for money, student mental health needs and viability of placement if a student has not been attending the placement or is significantly disengaged
- Due to concerns raised either by the school or the parent
- Due to the placement being at risk of breaking down

#### **Why may a parent ask the school for such a Review?**

- If they feel the placement is no longer working and would like an opportunity to explore whether adaptations can be made to meet need
- If new information has come to light which means a review of diagnosis or EHCP needs may be required
- If they feel that their child is ready to transition elsewhere
- If they feel that the setting no longer meets need, but would value the input / support of the school with regards to suggestions as to where may be a better fit

#### **What format will a review take?**

A Review will always discuss the strengths and progress that a child is making, along with any concerns being raised. Any party may come with suggestions around ways of making the placement a better fit for the child, or suggestions around further support. We always try to make such meetings positive and hold the views of the child and needs of the child at the core. EHCPs are ultimately paper, not a person. Children's needs change and can be affected by many different things both at school and externally. The key to any setting where children are vulnerable is to not cause 'more harm'. We always take parent concerns seriously and we always try for such reviews to feel positive and supportive – if a placement is not working then it is in the child's best interest for the current placement to end as amicably and positively as possible, and for us to be actively involved in supporting the transition to somewhere new.

#### **What is a such review not?**

- Part of the complaints procedure, which should be followed if you wish to lodge a formal complaint with the school or LEA
- An exercise in changing the setting to fit the child – this unfortunately can not be the case and parents need to keep in mind that the setting fits the majority of the children very well
- A place for the school to raise significant safeguarding concerns
- A mediation meeting

#### **Who will be there?**

L.E.As will not always attend, Parents do not always have to attend but wherever possible the school encourages parents, L.E.As, other professionals to attend along with relevant school staff.

Statement agreed on: 03/Jan/2019      Due for review on or before: Jan 2021

## ARUN COURT SCHOOL



**Arun Court Setting**

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**Reg. School 936/6015**

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