

SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) Frequently Asked Questions during the Covid-19 pandemic

If my pre-school closes, will we still receive SENIF for the children who are in receipt SENIF?

Yes, we have made a commitment to agree to continue to devolve SENIF for those children who have ongoing SENIF Agreements until the end of the original agreement.

If my pre-school remains open but children with SENIF agreements do not attend, will we still receive their SENIF?

Yes, we have made a commitment to agree to continue to devolve SENIF for those children who have ongoing SENIF Agreements until the end of the original agreement.

I made a new request for SENIF for a child after 1st March 2020 which would commence in April 2020 will this be agreed?

SENIF Requests are being considered in the same way and timescales. However new SENIF agreements will not commence until the child is actually accessing their hours at your pre-school. Therefore if your setting is closed or the family choose not to send their child if you're open and they are part of the category where education provision could be made for them then SENIF would not commence until you confirm the child has been attending.

I have an agreement in principle for a SENIF Request for a child who was not attending/the setting was closed, when will this start?

It is the responsibility of each pre-school setting to let the SENIF finance team know via email to SENIF@kent.gov.uk once the child has started attending and/or the setting has reopened.

I have an agreement in principle for a SENIF Request for a child who was not attending/the setting was closed, when will this finish?

It will end in accordance with either the child's school starting point (August 2020) or if the child does not start school until September 2021 it will end after 1 year from receipt of the SENIF evidence. I.e. SENIF request was received in March 2020 and under usual circumstances would have started in April 2020 and ended in March 2021. It will still end in March 2021 regardless of the start date to take account of any progress or developments the child could have made in this year timeframe.

I do not have the Specialist Teacher Record of Visit to submit as part of the SENIF Request, is this OK?

We are still able to consider the request for SENIF if you do not have the STLS RoV because STLS were unable to visit due to the Covid-19 directive. The SENIF Request Form, Reviewed Personalised Plan and Current Personalised Plan will still be required. We would expect an STLS RoV to be provided if they had visited prior to 13th March 2020.

Should we still be offering places to children in receipt of SENIF, even though they don't have EHCPs and their parents aren't classified as key workers?

No, the guidance for these children is to be at home.

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If a child has a proposed EHCP are they considered one of the categories that we need to make provision available for?

Children who have a proposed EHCP should be considered as a child in the vulnerable category.

We have been instructed to support vulnerable children and those with EHCPs during the holiday period, will I still be funded via SENIF for the extra sessions if they are already in receipt of a SENIF agreement?

Yes but the process for claiming for this hasn't been finalised yet.

I submitted a SENIF review request for continued funding for a child, as this child is not attending currently due the Covid-19 situation. Do we still claim for the SENIF now or wait until their return?

You can make the request for continued SENIF now to include updated and reviewed SENIF Request Form, Last Reviewed Personalised Plan, Current Personalised Plan, last Record of Specialist Teacher (if available) and SENIF Review Form. We will then consider the request in the usual timeframe but make contact with you to establish whether the child is **actually** attending your setting at this current time. If not we will ask you to let us know at SENIF@kent.gov.uk when you reopen/they start to attend so we can put the agreement into place.

A child in my setting has a SENIF agreement, we are not opening, but are looking for an alternative setting for them, will SENIF transfer?

- Under usual circumstances SENIF does not transfer, however in this instance we would honour the SENIF agreement to the original end date at the new setting once confirmation has been received the child is accessing hours at the alternative setting under one of the categories for emergency childcare.
- The SENIF at your setting will cease at the point of transfer to the alternative setting.
- Please let the SENIF Team know at SENIF@kent.gov.uk should the child transfer back to your setting at any point before the agreement ends so it can be transferred back to your setting.
- Should the agreement end whilst the child is attending the alternative setting a new request will be required and will only continue once it is confirmed the child continues to attend under one of the categories for emergency childcare.

My SENIF Agreement has expired whilst my setting has been closed, do I need to reapply or can it be extended?

- Under usual circumstances you would be expected to submit all required evidence for continuation of SENIF.
- It is a Setting's responsibility to get in contact with the SENIF team at SENIF@kent.gov.uk to advise that they are open, the child has returned to the setting and confirm the number of hours the child has taken up.
- It has been agreed that, since the Government's announcement on 10th May 2020 that people should be getting back to work and pre-schools should be reopening from 1st June 2020, that we are able to extend some SENIF agreements, if this is specifically requested by the setting. These are for children who will be starting

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school in September 2020, where the agreement would have expired during the period when settings have been closed. These agreements can be reinstated until the end of August 2020.

- Agreements will not be restarted or extended without the setting making contact to request this.
- If a setting has submitted all required evidence for a continuation request, this evidence will be considered and an agreement, if made, based on that.
- If the child will not be starting school until September 2021 then it will still be necessary to follow the current guidance on requesting continuing funds.