

# Waverley @ Home: Working together with families

## The story so far

All of our 131 pupils have an EHCP. The vast majority of pupils live in the London Borough of Enfield and rely on home-school transport to travel to and from school. All our pupils have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. 55% have a physical disability and 65% have a diagnosed underlying medical need, such as epilepsy or asthma. All pupils fall under the government's categories of being at either high or moderate risk of developing complications from COV-19 and should consider staying at home.

Five staff are shielding because they have been asked to by their GP. A further 27 staff have underlying health conditions or live with vulnerable family members.

We have recently introduced Class Dojo to share photos, videos and home learning with our families. This app provides the platform for our home learning for pupils. Many of our families have started to engage with this and are using it to interact with their teachers and share learning they have been doing at home.

By the time the government announced a national lockdown on 23 March, 63% of our families had chosen to keep the pupils at home. This meant that 48 pupils were still attending at the time of lockdown. The guidance from Public Health England has been to stay at home. However, the government asked schools to stay open for vulnerable pupils. This means those that have an EHCP whose needs 'can be met as safely in school as they can be at home'.

At that time, senior leaders identified a small group of pupils who they thought should attend our onsite provision. Initially this was a small group of 3-4 pupils which has grown to 10 pupils since the Easter holidays. School is open for this group for three days per week, 10am - 3pm. The government guidance is clear that the final decision lies with families.

## Our virtual school

This has been a challenging time for our pupils and their families. When planning our response to the global pandemic, we have thought carefully how we keep everyone as safe as possible.

We are continuing to provide for every child in the school. This is through a combination of:

- Our key worker system for every family
- Online learning
- Bespoke support for those with particular needs
- On-site provision for those safer at school than home

Leaders have ensured that we are able to maintain most of our usual procedures, meetings and systems, and therefore keep the school running as smoothly as possible.



Today's second activity is a math activity. Watch the video with your child and then help them to find things that they can put into

## Keeping children safe

Because of their complex needs, all of our pupils are vulnerable. We take the welfare of our pupils extremely seriously. Our response to this included staff working as key workers over the Easter holiday.

- Staff complete weekly contact forms
- Safeguarding policy has been updated
- Close working with other agencies - Cheviots and health colleagues
- Weekly face to face contact for the most vulnerable pupils

On the odd occasion that a parent cannot be contacted, this is followed up by a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

## Collaborative risk assessments

We have completed detailed risk assessments for every pupil in the school. Where pupils are identified as requiring on-site provision, a comprehensive risk assessment is completed.

The risk assessment weighs the child's safety, education, health and other welfare needs, to decide whether they feel the child is safer at school. An overall decision is then made.

Significant adjustments have been made to accommodate the most vulnerable of pupils who have a social worker and underlying health needs.

School asks families to sign a waiver which notes that school is unable to guarantee that others do not have covid-19, that the pupil must not attend if they have any symptoms, the school curriculum is not being followed, the pupil may not be with staff who are familiar with them and that there may not be a nurse on site.

## Outreach

We are aware that many of our families may be shielding, self-isolating or may be unable to get to the shops. We have set up a 'key worker' system where school staff contact each family weekly and offer this support. We were able to utilise this enthusiastic team of staff to deliver food parcels and vouchers to our 68 pupils who receive free school meals, provide food packages from our school food bank and shop for items or collect prescriptions when needed. This support is ongoing.

## Online learning

Our online learning environment, Class Dojo, has allowed us to create a digital platform to continue pupils' learning. Examples of how it is used include:

- Lessons for each class are published daily and family engagement within these is monitored
- Videos of physical programmes, for example physiotherapy, are uploaded
- Familiar staff record themselves reading stories that support literacy activities
- Demonstrations of practical activities such as messy play or crafts
- Music and songs, including music therapy
- Individual support for particular pupils, including personalised learning activities

We have also set up a Waverley YouTube channel which has lots of fun songs, stories and activities for pupils to access at home. We have had positive feedback from parents about how much their children are enjoying these activities.



## On-site provision

The school remains open. The senior leaders regularly communicate with families and social workers to check if their circumstances have changed. Risk assessments are updated accordingly. In addition, we are in discussion with health colleagues to ensure we have a complete picture when considering the risk assessment.

Our on-site provision is staffed by volunteer staff and the PPE guidance from Enfield is adhered to. Due to the nature of our pupils needs, social distancing is not possible. Pupils are unable to follow current covid-19 safety measure such as regular hand washing, so staff need to assist them with this. Staff work on a 'week on/week off' rota to enable staff cover and isolation periods. Senior leaders are working on plans to reopen the school whilst keeping pupils, families and staff safe.