



## Frequently asked questions

Our vision

Challenging expectations and sharing success

### Returning to school during the covid 19 pandemic

#### Is it safe to send my child to school?

*We have a health and safety protocol in place to reduce the risk. Due to the nature of our pupils we are unable to provide a coronavirus safe environment. Pupils are unable to follow social distancing guidelines and staff are required to support them physically which is an additional risk of contact. Parents who decide to send their child to school during this pandemic do so with the understanding that there are considerable risks associated with the school environment. A waiver identifying this understanding must be completed by parents to show they are willing to take this risk.*

#### Who is currently offered a place at school?

*Pupils who are vulnerable: that is anyone with a social worker and who is considered to be in as much risk at school due to the virus as staying at home.*

*Children of key workers: that is anyone who has a parent who is working in front line services and who does not have a shielding letter from their gp.*

#### How does the school decide which pupils are vulnerable?

*Working with social workers and health colleagues the school leaders decide who is safe to return to school. As our pupils are unable to follow safe distancing guidelines there is a higher risk that they will be in contact with the virus. Therefore school leaders need to make careful consideration, alongside the pupil's family, to ensure pupils remain safe.*

#### Can anyone else attend ?

*A small number of pupils from each class can attend if it is safe to do so. A letter from a gp offering guidance on any underlying health needs is required to assist us in writing our risk assessments.*

#### What happens if the gp says my child is at no more risk than the general public?

*School leaders will review this advice and discuss with parents a reasonable offer of some time in school.*

#### How much time would my child have in school if the doctor or consultant says they are at no greater risk than the general public.

*Currently are offering 3 days for small groups of children. On a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am - 3pm*

#### Would my child have to go to all 3 days?

*No, parents can decide how many days they are comfortable with.*

#### What happens if the doctor or consultant says my child must adhere to strict social distancing?

*In this case we advise parents to keep their child at home. If this is not an option for your family please talk to us and we may be able to offer your child a session once or twice a week in a classroom with no other pupils and with staff in full ppe.*

#### What happens if the doctor or consultant says my child needs to be shielded?

*In this case we strongly advise that parents keep their child at home as advised by their doctor. If it is not possible to keep your child safely at home talk to us and we may be able to offer your child a session once or twice a week in a classroom with no other pupils and with staff in full ppe.*

**Why are school leaders asking for medical advice?**

*School leaders do not hold all your child's medical details. Health professionals are best placed to advise on how coronavirus would affect your child if your child were to be infected. Doctors have told us that they have not yet sent out all their shielding letters. As schools have been closed there has been an assumption that children are not attending and therefore are shielding. As we move out of lockdown we have found that more children are receiving shielding letters. Some children started to attend and then it was found that they should be shielding. These anomalies highlight the need to proceed with caution when agreeing to offer school placements.*

**What happens if I do not want to send my child to school?**

*All parents are entitled to keep their child at home at this time.*

**Are age groups of children being brought into school?**

*No, special schools have been asked to bring pupils into school who it is felt it is safe to do so. This is not in age groups as it is in mainstream.*

*From the 15th June school leaders will be prioritising pupils who are over 16*

**Is transport still running ?**

*Transport is available for pupils attending school and who have previously had access to transport. We recommend parents think carefully about using transport as this is increasing contact with others.*

**Will school be open for everyone in September?**

*School leaders follow current guidance from the Department for Education and the government. Currently it is unclear how schools will operate in September.*

**My child is due to start attending Waverley in September. How will their transition be coordinated?**

*Once your placement has been agreed by SEN and the school has been informed we will contact you to*

- *Complete your child's starting school pack (this will be via video call with a member of staff).*
- *Complete your child's permission forms (these will be posted out for you to complete and return to school).*
- *Share any relevant medical information (the school nurse will contact you to do a health assessment).*
- *You will be invited to attend a video call to meet your child's class teacher.*
- *Once we have more guidance regarding school opening in September, we will let you know your child's start date. We usually require a parent to stay with their child on the first day. If a parent wants to stay with their child for longer to help them settle in, we are very flexible.*
- *We prioritise statutory school age children first (Y1 and YR) and nursery pupils second for our transition process.*
- *Start dates are staggered throughout September. We aim to have all children in school by October half-term.*

**What site will my child attend?**

*If your child is 6 years or older they will attend the Waverley main site on 105 The ride.*

*If your child is under 6 they will attend either Waverley@Bell Lane or Waverley@Honilands. Once we have had the opportunity to meet your child we will confirm which pre-school setting is able to offer your child the most appropriate learning environment.*