



Headteacher's Report to Governors

Covid 19

July 2020

Our Mission Statement

“And the child grew and became strong; He was full of wisdom and God’s blessings were upon Him.” (Luke 2:40)

Our Vision

We strive, with God’s grace, to enable every child to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in the knowledge they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community. Our core Christian values are woven throughout our curriculum and wider school ethos to fully prepare each of our children to achieve the highest holistic outcomes.

Our mission statement, “And the child grew and became strong...” (Luke 2:40) embodies our vision and commitment to equip children with the values and tools to enable them to thrive and flourish, embracing both success and challenge, prepared for “life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10)

SUMMARY FROM THE HEADTEACHER

- It was announced on 18th March 2020 that schools would be closing for the foreseeable future on 20th March. During these final few days in school, staff worked tirelessly preparing and distributing home learning packs; communicating plans to parents & carers; ensuring safe practices in school; researching and planning for on-line learning; rapidly developing their own skills in uploading content to new school website; shutting down end of year school finances (with less than 24 hours notice); all the while maintaining an atmosphere of calm and support for children and families, many of whom were very anxious.
- Our staff, with the exception of those required to shield for themselves or family members, were redeployed to Rudston Safe Space Hub from Monday 23rd March (with less than 24 hours’ notice) – working on a rota basis from 7am – 7pm, including school holidays and bank holidays. Staff responded to these changes in terms and conditions without any objection.
- The staff teams from 3 schools (ourselves, Rudston and St Paschal Baylon) worked together cohesively as one team in an unprecedented situation which none of their training or previous experience had in any way prepared them for.
- Support from the Central Guidance Team in the Local Authority was essential and a very positive feature of Liverpool’s response to the pandemic, both during the time of hubs and in issuing and repeatedly updating clear guidance for schools’ phased reopening.
- Safe Space Hubs were closed on Friday 22nd May, with schools left with just half term week to prepare for the phased reopening of our own school.
- Again, our staff showed their commitment to our school and their exceptional teamwork with many volunteering to come in at different points during half term week to prepare and adapt various aspects of school to adhere to our risk assessment and ensure we could reopen to children of key workers and vulnerable children from 1st June.
- Feedback from parents of children within school and from staff is overwhelmingly positive with a collective theme of how all feel safe and supported.

ATTENDANCE

Briefly explain:

- 55 of our children attended school hubs between lockdown and our school reopening
- We now have 150 key workers' children or vulnerable children registered to attend school either part time or full time
- We submit attendance data to DfE daily
- Between 62 and 131 children have attended on any given day; daily averages are now approx. 120
- Off site provision for further key worker children has been offered at Liverpool College from 6th July
- Off site provision for Year 6 children has been offered at Liverpool College from 13th July

SKELETON STAFFING

- 11 bubbles – 1 teacher in each and 1 LSA in most (some part-time and some full time)
- 2 part time 0.8 teachers have gone to full time to protect integrity of their bubbles
- 1 supply teacher used for first 4 weeks, from June 1st – teacher returning from shielding replaced her from 29.6.2020
- 3 midday staff delivering lunches to outside each bubble; supervising bubble outdoors or from outside doorway to allow teacher lunch break on days when individual bubbles have no LSA support
- Other shielding staff working from home on range of preparation, support, welfare tasks (3 teachers; 4 LSAs)
- In first 2 weeks of return to school, surplus staff sent to work from home if number of children permitted; that's no longer the case as we have reached capacity figure
- Staff availability during lockdown period and since reopening our own school:

	Teachers (21)	LSAs(17)	Other Support Staff(13)
HUB	11	6	7
Back At School	17	13	8

- Limited staff on site unnecessarily – all staff expected to be off-site by 4pm (except SLT)
- Shaun McNicholas still working condensed hours so on site all day as opposed to split shift
- Von Hudson cleaning throughout day 8am-4pm
- Other cleaners on site 2pm-4pm
- Chill Kidz staff remain furloughed; awaiting DfE guidance relating to ability to reopen extended provision.

REMOTE LEARNING

- Daily tasks set on website and sent directly to parents through Parentmail

REMOTE LEARNING

- Links to several on-line learning platforms, often demonstrating and providing instant feedback to children
- Older children took text books home so learning tasks often use these; answers posted next day for self/parent marking
- homelearning@childwallce.com email address set up at beginning of lockdown; parents use this daily with any questions/concerns which is checked throughout the day and responded to or e-mail forwarded to relevant teacher for response if required
- 'Stay Home; Stay Safe' page set up on school website with range of all-age activities, in addition to individual year group home learning tasks
- Music page and e-mail address also set up to share music activities / favourite songs etc..
- From 1st May – new Seesaw account logins shared with all parents/carers to be used as a positive platform for celebrating children's achievements and maintaining contact between the children and their class teacher.
- 10th May – began sharing daily video recordings of staff reading chapter stories with picture books also recorded and shared 3 times weekly.
- Throughout lockdown, various 'competitions' uploaded to Twitter – eg) Identify the story starter; Guess the Baby
- Teachers have made some use of Government's 'Oak Academy' materials in their planning but haven't found these to always be the best quality
- In recent weeks, SIL have shared some planning materials which, again, teachers are dipping in and out of – much more closely aligned to our curriculum than Oak Academy

SAFEGUARDING

- 175 audit completed and submitted immediately before lockdown – no outstanding actions
- Safeguarding e-mail account continued to be checked daily – all communication followed up
- Lockdown – safe space hubs – I contacted different hubs where parents of vulnerable children had indicated they would attend – shared necessary safeguarding information with Headteachers (DSLs). This communication continued regularly throughout lockdown.
- Year 6 transfer forms to secondary schools – highlighted where there are any safeguarding concerns and/or information to share to indicate requirement to share separately – relevant to 4 children
- Family on Child in Need Plan – I joined 2 CiN telephone conferences since school closed. Case stepped down from social care mid-May.
- Food Vouchers – FSM e-codes organised and distributed through Edenred scheme – completed weekly. Hand delivered Asda vouchers to individual families when this scheme was not working effectively or quickly enough; also hand delivered Asda vouchers during half term when scheme didn't support FSM families.
- Welfare calls – SLT and Phase Leaders have made at least 2 welfare calls to every family in school – some with additional follow up calls. Others have been contacted far more frequently.
- 2 families accessing school and hub provision specifically for welfare reasons
- 1 to 1 LSAs – provision made for them to contact children they support via Facetime or WhatsApp with appropriate safeguarding protocols put in place with parents.

SAFEGUARDING

- EHAT family accessing provision in another school – I have kept in regular contact with school to check on children’s welfare and attendance; have also contacted Mum on a number of occasions to support
- Seesaw – we reset children’s login details when opened up to home use, for safeguarding reasons, to avoid photographs of other children being visible on previously stored evidence. Also disabled provision to comment on others’ work to avoid risk of unacceptable or inappropriate comments and families viewing other children’s work.
- Welfare information – throughout lockdown and since school partially reopening, we have shared relevant welfare information with parents – sometimes specifically targeted, sometimes sent to all.

Number of safeguarding incidents

2

Number of pupils with a child protection plan in place

0

Safeguarding training

All staff have up to date safeguarding training – this has continued to be enhanced through sharing various updated information and requesting staff to e-mail confirmation that this has been read & understood.

MC & LDU completed new to Designated Safeguarding Lead training – June 2020, meaning we now have DSL and 3 trained Deputies.

SLT and DSL team all newly trained in use of CPOMs – on line safeguarding and information sharing /reporting package – to be fully rolled out in new academic year.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Vulnerable children including those:

- Who have a social worker, including:
 - Children in need – (see comment earlier regarding sharing information with other safe space hubs)
 - Children with a child protection plan – N/A
 - Children looked after by the local authority – welfare access to school
 - Children with education, health and care (EHC) plans – 7 children currently have EHCPs. Whilst our school was closed, we kept regular contact with parents who all felt that child was safer at home and better able to provide provision of plan at home, rather than accessing a hub. Since school partially reopened, 4 of the 7 have returned to school; other 3 are in daily contact with their 1 to 2 support worker; 1 is shielding – Mum has requested further personalised learning activities which have been put together by class teacher and shared through SENCO, along with additional support strategies from external agencies

Number of pupils on the special educational needs (SEN) register: 42

Include details of pupils with EHC plans: 7 currently on EHCP plans with a further 2 currently being written, 1 awaiting assessment outcome and 1 applied for and awaiting response (9 definite and likelihood of a

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

further 2)

Number of children looked after by the local authority: 2 on Special Guardianship Order

CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS

- Immediately before school shut, parents of 80 children advised they might need hub provision, with 55 accessing this provision at some point during lockdown.
- Following phased reopening of our school, initially we, again, had 80 requests which rapidly grew in the early weeks until we reached our identified safe capacity of 150.
- By being flexible and allowing part time spaces, we have been able to accommodate 15 children overall in each of our bubbles, although, as rooms are small, only a maximum of 12 can be accommodated on any one day
- Number of children of critical workers: 147 are accessing school on at least a part time basis
- 35 children remain on a key worker waiting list (parents who have requested places after we reached our safe capacity on 11th June 2020)
- Off-site provision for further key worker children has been offered at Liverpool College from 6th July – only 3 parents have accepted this provision

PUPILS ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- For first 2 weeks of lockdown, LCC provided £10 Asda vouchers for children entitled to FSM, which were collectible from Children's Centres; where families had difficulties accessing these, I delivered them to homes.
- From 20th April I have been placing weekly order with through Government Edenred scheme for e-codes to be delivered to parents via e-mail – these can be transferred into £15 vouchers for a range of supermarkets.
- During half term holiday, I again delivered Asda cards to each FSM family as Edenred scheme was not supporting through holiday.
- Edenred scheme is now operational with order changing according to when pupils in receipt of free school meals have returned to school.
- Edenred scheme is now to continue through summer holidays.
- It has not yet been confirmed whether funding for these vouchers will be reclaimed from schools.

FINANCE AND PREMISES

- Additional costs to employ cleaner on-site throughout the school day (approx. £110 per week)
- Additional cleaning materials
- Hand sanitiser stations throughout school (£530)
- Supply teacher for 4 weeks to maximize number of bubbles we could provide, up to safe capacity (£3000)
- Replacement of text books which were sent home as part of home learning packs (approx. £2000)
- Subscription to Literacy Planet on-line site to enhance quality of home learning (£1700)
- Lost Chill Kidz income

We are submitting DfE Covid19 Costs Claim Form for items which we can – ie cleaning costs and salary costs, but are waiting to hear how successful this will be)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- See risk assessment document – regularly updated

RECRUITMENT

- We are employing an additional teacher from September (on supply basis) initially for one term but hoping to extend. This teacher is known to us and will add a considerable strength to the team, both academically and pastorally as we look forward to potentially opening to all pupils from September.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

- Parental feedback has, largely, been positive – particularly from those whose children accessed the hub and those who are now accessing school, but also from many others.
- Parents have been able to contact staff throughout school closure period via newly created homelearning@childwallce.com account to request support or ask any questions, with a same day response.
- Written feedback reports were sent electronically to parents shortly after school closed, in place of spring parents' night – these were very well received with only one negative feedback.
- There have been a number of contacts with school expressing dissatisfaction with how places were allocated for children of key workers.
 - Information was sent out to all parents on Parentmail (email and text) on 22nd May describing the phased reopening of school and requesting that, if a key worker place would be required, the key worker form should be returned to school by deadline of 26th May.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

- After that deadline date, we had 80 requests for places. In line with Government and Local Authority guidance, we admitted children with just one key worker parent. Had applications exceeded places by the specified deadline, we may have needed to consider prioritising requests, according to whether both parents were key workers or children live with only one parent who is a key worker.
 - By the end of week 1, requests for key worker places had increased to 104 and, at this point, we asked parents of Year 6 how many would intend to send their Year 6 child back to school if we were to reopen to this year group (as per Government and Local Authority priority order). 56 parents indicated that they would send their children back (19 of these children already being in school as children of key workers – so an additional 37)
 - However, on 11th June we advised the Local Authority and parents that, due to a marked increase of key worker requests, as more work places reopened (including secondary schools) we had reached the safe capacity identified on our risk assessment and any further requests would be placed on a waiting list.
- We have given full consideration to all parent suggestions relating to home learning and contact with children, making a number of adaptations to our provision in response.

STAFF WELLBEING AND CPD

- See minutes from Personnel and Performance meeting 23/6/2020

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDED FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

- Headteacher and SLT are extremely grateful for the support and flexibility of the Governing Board in response to additional extraordinary meetings which have needed to be called at short notice.
- I anticipate that this is likely to continue into the future as we are required to respond, either as a full board, or as sub-committees, to changes in guidance or changes relating to the pandemic situation moving forwards.
- All staff were grateful and touched by the public statement of support and pride from the Governors in their correspondence to parents and carers, dated 19th June 2020.