

Keelman's Way School

Position statement in relation to Covid 19 School Closure

Context

School closed in March two days prior to national lockdown as the result of staff absence, pupil absence and parental concerns. It was initially anticipated that this would be until Easter. Systems were quickly in place to maintain links between staff, parents, pupils and other agencies outlined the business continuity plan.

Main actions during closure

- Key worker and vulnerable pupils were provided for and registers kept of their and staff attendance
- Staff worked on a rota basis supporting pupils in the outdoor classrooms space
- Child care was provided that focussed very much on outdoor activities.
- RAG rated risk assessment was put in place and senior staff were available on site or at home at all times, this was reviewed regularly by SLT (Google Drive)
- Safeguarding procedures were followed throughout (policy updates Behaviour, Safeguarding)
- Social workers were alerted where concerns arose (CP monitoring list)
- Social workers were encouraging attendance at school for more pupils than were able to access because of shielding, health and other concerns in some instances
- Teachers and TAs made regular contact with all pupils and kept records of home school contacts. (Google Drive)
- Parent surveys reported that phone calls home and Facebook activities were the most beneficial for children during this period
- Where families were 'hard to reach' staff persisted until they could secure a response.
- Facebook and Youtube became the main vehicle for support as well as home school phone contacts and advice (Google Classroom was added for older pupils)
- Individualised video support was provided to specific pupils for areas of development
- Health professionals were redeployed to the community roles and advice on therapies was offered by HLTA staff for physio, SALT, OT
- Parents were supported in accessing all aspects of health support via the school Health and Inclusion lead
- Parent information and publication of ongoing advice were accessible via Facebook, parent mail and school website
- Staff maintained and updated training throughout closure
- All access to the building was Risk Assessed and staff updated on this
- Parents were kept informed of changes via social media, email, Text and Parent mail throughout
- School facebook and website signposted families to sources of support.

Return to school

- Pupils and staff returned to school in a very positive frame of mind although anxious about how we would operate.
- Four parents have confirmed that it may be some time before their child attends due to health concerns. These pupils and families are supported in home learning by an experienced member of school staff who is familiar with their needs until they can confidently return
- Attendance for September was 92.67% which is very close to 93.28 for September 2019
- This is affected by parental concerns for 3 pupils who have not yet sent their child to school and pupils isolating with family, often those awaiting tests
- It is monitored/reviewed daily
- No child or staff member has themselves tested positive for Covid to date
- Recovery curriculum training and a period of review was in place for opening.
- Updated risk assessments are published and ensure risks are mitigated for re opening and all information shared
- Staff RAG rated pupils in relation to progress, behaviour and mental health needs and health concerns
- The rating will guide how we support pupils and direct additional funding to appropriate areas of learning
- EHCP processes are fully in place for autumn term and for those parents request to be carried over from summer term
- Attendance is monitored and where pupils are unable to attend home school interventions are in place
- SDP is in place and intervention groups timetable to ensure more able pupils can maintain learning for accreditation
- Safeguarding and Cjoms monitoring and RA
- A substantial Remote Learning Policy is in place should we need to close for some or all pupils and is based in what we learned during lockdown around how parent and pupils engage in school activities
- Absentees are contacted regularly to confirm reason for absence and encourage engagement
- The curriculum is fully in place but pupils are working in bubbles and modifications are in place to maintain sufficient distance and are managed as well as possible or mitigated by PPE
- Qualifications programmes will be extended into year 14 to enable pupils to achieve the required units