

Information for Parents/Carers regarding Covid – 19 (Coronavirus infection) and School News

A message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

As you know this Bulletin is now the place where you find COVID-19 related information. The weekly newsletter re-instated today contains School news and is the place where information about students, the weekly on-line meetings plan and other school news is published.

This bulletin has the page (2), updated today, about our current on-site provision and the criteria we have used to develop it. On page 3 we have included our Action Plan — sorry it is sideways on but it can also be found within the School's Risk Assessment and Action Plan document also published on the website.

The Action Plan is really a road map to restoring normal provision with a clear plan that in September classes will remain in single classrooms with rotas for student attendance, teaching staff and health provisions. We know that the Government has said they expect schools to open full-time for all pupils from September but we cannot do that until our risk assessments allow us to proceed safely to stage 6 in the Action Plan and then to the restoration of full school provision as set out for stage 7. What will need to be in place to progress from Stage 5 to stage 6 and beyond?

There are a number of factors which will have to be taken into account. These include:

- ♦ Low risk of transmission within the community
- ♦ Effective and rapid testing in event of a case of COVID-19 in School
- ♦ Safe transport provision made by local authorities in conjunction with families (the School does not have the capacity to take on this responsibility!)
- ♦ Sufficient staff with the right skills and up-to-date training to support students' personal care, physical management, medication needs, eating and drinking and other individual needs
- ♦ Sufficient health care professionals (nurses and therapists) to ensure the needs of students can be safely met
- ♦ The right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that enables all procedures to be carried out safely. (Some PPE such as facemasks for certain high risk procedures requires specific staff training and fitting of special masks)
- ♦ Adequate staffing and physical resources to ensure continuous cleaning throughout the school day

We are committed, as far as practicable to ensure that full access to the curriculum will be provided for all students as soon as possible in the autumn but this will have to be a blend of both on-site and 'at home' learning (stage 6) until we can safely move to stage 7.

In the next couple of weeks on-line meetings will be held to answer your questions but in the meantime we hope that this information is helpful.

With best wishes.

Roland Gooding

Principal

Information on shielding, COVID-19 infections and EHCPS is now on the website and not included in this bulletin

Access to Support from Valence School - (Up-dated 26/06/20)

Our educational provision for all students is the same whether students are staying at home or receiving support on-site at School. We will continue to make on-site provision and extend it based upon:

- **Maintaining the safety of students and staff working with them;**
- **Maintaining social distancing;**
- **No person attending the School who is ill, has been in contact with others who are ill or is showing any symptoms associated with COVID –19;**
- **Having sufficient staff with the right training and skills to meet the needs of students present;**
- **Having access to nurses and therapists who will work directly with students on-site;**
- **Having safe home-school transport in place;**
- **Having necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff;**
- **Having access to COVID 19 testing for students and staff.**

At the moment we continue to make provision at School as stated in the Parents' letter on the 20th March. We will prioritise access to support on the following basis:

1. **Any child who can be cared for in the family should be looked after at home, although we have started to include more children on-site from 22 June);**
2. **Any family who needs some childcare support will be prioritised in terms of the child's needs and resources within the family home, taking account of available help from other sources such as respite care and Social Services;**
3. **Any child who needs to attend school due to the fact that their parents are critical workers and have to work will have provision made at School, subject to sufficient staffing levels, staff skills and expertise and the availability of specialist support. We envisage that this would be on a daily basis only in all but exceptional circumstances.**

Extending provision at School has to be very carefully planned and managed and senior leaders are making preparations for this to happen, in conjunction with parents/carers and in the context of health and safety and risk assessments. Our plans are being made step-by-step and we will only proceed if and when it is safe to do so. Any extension of provision will only be made when we can ensure, as far as possible, that students are protected as well as the staff who are working with them.

The extension of provision from 22 June includes the grouping of students in 'bubbles' of 2/3 with designated staff in specific accommodation. We will evaluate how this works and its safety before making any further changes.

VALENCE SCHOOL Covid-19 RESPONSES AND TEST INDICATORS (movement can occur either way)

<p>Isolation Pods</p> <p>23rd March</p> <p>We will limit the number of students attending school so that individual isolation pods within the home living areas are set up with only key staff on site</p> <p><i>The School's most severe response to COVID-19 at a stage when the risk of infection is high</i></p>	<p>Extended Isolation (Phase 1 of recovery)</p> <p>1st June</p> <p>We will introduce additional staff and students so that we can support a greater number of those students in need. Isolation pods will include classrooms</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The risk of infection is high 2. The majority of staff and students are shielding but families tell us they need support 	<p>3. Learning Bubbles (Phase 2 of recovery)</p> <p>22nd June</p> <p>Groups of 2/3 students established with designated learning space, care suite and outside area. Staff allocated to the bubble will remain in that bubble</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Assessments have been completed and the risk has lowered. 2. Nursing provision, PPE & safety equipment is available 	<p>4. Extended Learning Bubbles (Phase 3 of recovery)</p> <p>15th July</p> <p>Learning Bubbles increased to allow additional students to access provision</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents request additional support to help with transition back to school 2. We know that routines within the bubbles work and can cope with additional students. 3. Families have relaxed their approach to isolation 4. Transport available 	<p>5. Class Bubbles (Phase 4 of recovery)</p> <p>September</p> <p>Classes remain in a single classroom with rotas for student attendance, teaching staff and health provision</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staffing is available to offer a return for all students 2. Risk Assessments demonstrate sufficient mitigation for the safe transport, arrival, containment and departure in larger numbers 	<p>6. Normal Timetable with safety controls (Phase 5 of recovery)</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Classes return to full timetable without assemblies, trips, external visitors and any other activity posing additional risk.</p> <p>Retention of additional cleaning and practices</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The risk of transmission is low and isolation is not required 2. Covid-19 testing more effective 3. Staff are able to work with multiple students without increased risk 	<p>7. Full School</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>A return to normality with full curriculum</p> <p><u>We will do this when:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is little or no risk of infection due to population immunity (or a vaccine is available)
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Other Important Information

Contacting the School

We have a dedicated email address for all Covid 19 related enquiries. It is covid19@valence.kent.sch.uk

The school switchboard (01959 562156) is normally open Mondays to Fridays 08.00 until 16.00.

Urgent matters outside of these times should be directed to one of the staff below.

Key Staff telephone numbers:

Roland Gooding (Principal):	07896905605
Lisa Kavanagh (Vice-Principal Safeguarding and Social Care):	07912124724
Matt Strange Vice-Principal Teaching and Learning [+ Keller Pathway]:	07894483673
Jo Bleasdale (Assistant Principal — Simmonds Pathway):	07894483671
Zena Belton (Assistant Principal — Hawking Pathway):	07894483666

Free School Meals

There is now a national scheme for the provision of supermarket e-tokens and vouchers which have been arranged for the families of children who are eligible for free school meals. If you are having any problems with the scheme please contact us as we will be able to help! **Please do not give out bank details to anyone as scams are being reported in some parts of the country.**

Information from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

For therapy advice and equipment enquiries

During the current changes, the therapies support and advice can be accessed by either contacting your home therapy team, or for your NHS Valence School therapists via the email: kentchft.valencetherapies@nhs.net or on 01622 742333. This is one of the West Kent Children's Therapies' bases and is being answered by our administration team, they will be able to take your details and request and then pass this to the relevant therapist to support and advise you.

Karin Corrigan

Locality Clinical Manager Children's Therapies, West Kent

If you have information that you think we should know such as COVID 19 infection within your family please inform us by phone immediately whatever time of day!