



WOODLANDS

SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

Special Educational Needs

Information Report

2020-2021

COVID-19 Addendum

1) Changes to the allocation of support.

Due to the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic and the need to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils on their return to school, the following changes have been made to the allocation of support:

- Teachers will be requested to seat pupils with SEND on the back row of their classrooms, except those pupils where this will impact their access to learning.
- Progress Mentors will provide support to pupils, from behind, following a hover support model. This means that pupils will have short bursts of support, lasting no more than 15 minutes, to minimise close contacts.
- There will be increased use of technology to support pupils independently accessing and recording their learning, to further minimise close contact time between pupils and progress mentors.
- For those pupils who require close support due to significant physical or medical needs, progress mentors will be provided with PPE and the pupil will be encouraged to wear their facemask in lessons.
- Progress Mentor timetables have been created so that Progress Mentors mostly stay in 1 year group bubble, whilst this will present new timetabling challenges, it is felt that providing small team support will allow staff to quickly identify the pupils' learning needs and work collaboratively with the small number of colleagues to address needs. This way high quality support can be maintained during these unusual times.

2) Changes to the support usually available in school.

- Mix N Munch club, held in LD during breaks and lunchtimes, will be for year 7 pupils only. Other pupils requiring support during social times will be supervised using the resilience building quad; this is a quiet space which will be reserved for SEND pupils only.
- Individual progress mentoring will not take place in the library; instead Progress Mentors have been allocated to Year 7 and 8 form groups and will mentor pupils during these times. Pupils in Years 9-11 will receive their mentoring through lesson withdrawal from progress mentors allocated to their year group bubbles.
- When pupils need to take time out this will be carefully managed by staff to ensure that the pupil does not come into contact with pupils from other year groups, this may mean that pupils are asked to move to a new location when using their safe person/safe place provision.
- Interventions will run, but the majority of these will be during the school day rather than before and after school. Progress Mentors will take advantage of the staggered starts to the school day when possible. Intervention groups will be made up of pupils in the same year group only. The location of interventions will ensure that year groups are not together.

3) Changes to communication between parents and Learning Development staff

It is our intention to continue to communicate effectively with parents and calendared meetings will continue, either with social distancing in place, or through remote means such as telephone or video calls.

We also want to be able to respond to the early morning concerns parents often bring to our attention so pupil needs are met on their arrival to school. Whenever possible we would ask parents to share these concerns with us via telephone or by using the email address SEND@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk rather than coming to the school.

We will also ensure that a member of the Learning Development Team is outside reception each morning, should children need support entering the building, so we can work collaboratively with parents and communicate informally about their needs. During these conversations social distancing and facemasks will be used to ensure everyone's safety.