

Curriculum Statement - supporting the return to school Autumn 2020

As always our priority at WFS is to ensure our pupils feel safe and are ready for learning and therefore can make progress. Regular contact, between teachers and pupils and families, during the summer term allowed us to continue to support learning developments, as far as was possible and also to gain an insight into how well our pupils were managing news and personal experiences linked to the pandemic.

On returning to school in September, we know that one of the best ways to support our pupils' emotional state is to provide them with a stable learning environment. Pupils returned to the same classes and teachers in September and any changes to timetables or staff will begin after half-term - allowing a time to re-settle with staff who know the pupils best.

To support both our pupils' wellbeing and continued development in learning we have maintained the same curriculum approach within each phase. Embedded within this and where relevant we hold specific conversations regarding the pandemic and coping with loss. Our thorough PSHCE curriculum supports continued conversations about a developing understanding of emotions and each pupils' understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing. Where pupils have a need for more in-depth support, at either an individual or group level, teachers have been flexible in their use of lessons to support developing understanding or providing individualised intervention e.g. working with a member of staff in one of our outdoor areas to have a safe space to discuss their feelings and worries.

Teachers are determining where pupils have fallen behind in areas of learning and/or engagement and are adapting planning to pick up upon skills that need reinforcing or re-teaching. The Communication & Physio teams are supporting staff in determining where pupils may have fallen behind in skills such as use of PECs or early language or in physical mobility. Staff are responding to this and training is provided where required.

Where pupils are following accreditation programmes, extra time has been allocated to certain lessons eg. Science, to ensure that pupils continue to have the best chance to achieve at the correct ability level.

At WFS we believe pupils can gain and develop a wide range of skills within our outside areas and through play. To further support this, part of the 2020-21 PE Grant this year, is being spent on purchasing resources to support developing both sensory and physical development in a broader way.

As always at WFS we continue to develop a curriculum that we believe best meets pupil needs. The pandemic has delayed some of our planned development with this, however activities are continuing to take place in order for us to be ready to discuss the changes with parents by the end of this academic year, ready to begin in September 2021.