

ACET & RMBC Response to FAQs

Waverley Junior Academy Completion Date

Prior to the pandemic outbreak and current government restrictions in place, the build was scheduled to be completed and handed over to ACET at the end of July. It is difficult to give precise timelines for the build project to be completed as this will depend on government guidance and the removal of lockdown restrictions. Work is continuing on site presently where social distancing can be observed. There could also be supply chain issues as a result of the current situation hence, the Local Authority is working on the builders' current assumptions that the school building will be handed over in October. It is difficult to give precise details at this time as any relaxing of restrictions would be directed by central government.

Why Thurcroft?

Thurcroft Junior Academy (TJA) is part of ACET and is the nearest academy to Waverley that has the space to accommodate all the Waverley children until the new building is completed. As soon as Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted, parents will be invited to visit TJA with their children. Further details about this will be provided when we are in a position to confirm dates for this to take place.

Uniform

If current Covid-19 lockdown arrangements continue and we are unable to offer parents the Waverley uniform, then children will be allowed to wear their casual clothes when attending Thurcroft. Further information will be provided following updated government guidance.

Transferring School

Children in Y1-6 remain on their current school roll until they transfer schools – parents have received a letter from RMBC asking them to confirm their decision for their child to either transfer or stay on roll at their current school – parents need to inform the RMBC Admissions Team of their decision by 8th May.

Parents can decide to transfer their child mid-academic year; parents of Y1-6 children do have an option to keep their child at their existing school, then transfer to Waverley when the building opens. Should parents be considering this option, RMBC have advised that parents contact their child's existing school to make staff aware of this.

Class Sizes

58 children have been offered a place in Reception/FS2 for September 2020 at Waverley. Children in Y1-6 do have the option of remaining in their current school settings until the Waverley building is completed. Once all parents have confirmed their response with RMBC admissions, we will be able to provide an update about class sizes for all year groups on 25th May.

The Classroom Experience

Waverley children will be taught by their own staff in separate classrooms to Thurcroft children– on transfer to the new Waverley building, children will have the same teacher. Parental choices in response to confirming places either at Waverley, or at their child’s existing school will determine class sizes. Waverley children will have separate breaks from Thurcroft children and will be supervised by their own staff. Detailed lunchtime arrangements will be made when the government has published its plans for schools in the next phase of its national response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but will certainly involve social distancing.

Thurcroft and Waverley will be running as two separate academies located in the same building.

Medical and SEND Needs

Through robust induction procedures, information regarding individual pupil’s SEND or medical needs will be obtained, including liaison with external agencies and other school settings where appropriate. ACET will ensure Thurcroft can accommodate the needs of any pupils with specialist medical needs and that transport arrangements are risk assessed accordingly.

Out of Hours Provision

Plans are in place to offer a breakfast provision at Thurcroft from 7.45am. Once numbers are confirmed, we will be able to offer further details about this in the update on 25th May.

After school club provision cannot be offered while the children are attending Thurcroft, but will commence when the Waverley building opens.

Travel

The Local Authority will be commissioning buses/ coaches to transport the children between Waverley and Thurcroft on a daily basis.

A designated drop-off and collection point will be identified on the Waverley estate, with transport leaving at 8.30am to arrive at Thurcroft for a 9am start to lessons. Transport will depart Thurcroft at 3.30pm to arrive back at the designated collection point at Waverley at approximately 4pm. Children will be accompanied and supervised by Waverley staff who are DBS checked, to comply with safeguarding requirements. Parents will not be able to travel with their children on the buses but if they prefer, they may organise their own transport for their children.

FS0-FS1

FS0 and FS1 parents received communication via email from ACET on Wednesday 29th April.

Further Updates

ACET and RMBC are committed to working together to provide further updates to parents/carers. The next update will be provided on Monday 25th May following further government guidance about any relaxing of restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 lockdown.