

Statement from WJA Local Governing Body

It is great disappointment that we have to advise you that as a consequence of the introduction of the lockdown procedures introduced by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, building work at the Waverley Junior Academy site was interrupted at the end of March.

The extension of the lockdown clearly has increased the likelihood that the academy will not be ready to be handed over to ACET on August 1 ready for a September 1 opening, so it is prudent that we develop the contingency plan.

Working with colleagues from RMBC and with the approval of the DFE, ACET is making arrangements to accommodate children from FS2 to Y6 in another of their academy buildings at Thurcroft, where there will be classrooms for every group of pupils and their teachers. In this way, should the government allow schools to open in September, Waverley Junior Academy will open on the first day of the academic year, albeit on a different site.

Our staff will be ready to deliver the same induction activities and learning activities they have planned for the other site. Waverley children will enjoy assemblies together and socialise together (in accordance with government guidance at that time). Unfortunately, we will not be able to deliver after school provision for the children until they move into the Waverley building.

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.

RMBC Admissions have written to parents and carers of all FS2 to Y6 pupils who have been conditionally allocated a place at WJA, advising them of the situation and the options which are open to them. ACET have contacted parents and carers of Nursery aged children (FS0 and FS1) for whom provision can only be made when the Waverley site is available.

We cannot provide any further detail at this stage because like the rest of the country we are awaiting the government announcement about the lifting of lockdown procedures.

We will post another statement on Monday 25 May by which time we will have clearer information about the build progress and more details regarding the contingency planning. Whatever the circumstances, parents and carers can be assured that our wonderful principal, Cathryn, and talented team of staff will ensure the children of Waverley have an amazing start to Academic Year 2020/2021.

We thank you for your patience and understanding and send our very best wishes to the Waverley community during these extraordinary times.

6 May 2020