Wirral Sensory Service and the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Throughout the Spring and Summer lock down the Sensory Service continued working remotely with supported pupils on a daily or weekly basis. This has enabled these children to maintain some good levels of learning so that when schools re-opened they were not significantly further disadvantaged.

The families of monitored children received two catch up phone calls over this period. This enabled the Teaching team to help with any identified issues. Families were very pleased with this contact even if they did not require further advice.

In Wirral pupils with a sensory impairment began returning to schools with support from the Service in June, with full uptake in September.

According to school and council risk assessments it has been necessary for the following to be put in place:

Sensory staff can only visit a maximum of two schools a day. Staff must work in designated pupil ‘bubbles’ and cannot cross over into another unfamiliar ‘bubble’. No home visiting

Staff have limited flexibility with their timetables. Covering absent staff is very difficult because of the need to stay in bubbles. Schools must decide how they can cover a pupil when Sensory Service staff are unavailable.

The Service continues to maintain strong links with schools, other settings and health. Face to face monitoring of children with a sensory impairment is needs led and spread out over the school year. Phone calls between schools and the Service are happening and virtual meetings can be arranged when needed.

Please contact the Service if you have any concerns or issues you wish us to follow up.

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