

Camden Professional Partner: *Record of Virtual School Visit*

School: Kentish Town CE Primary School		CPP Marion Hunter
School staff seen: Headteacher Teachers of Years 4 and 6 and Reception		
Date:	CPP Day 1 29.01.21	CPP Day 2
Additional work commissioned by the school outside of the SLA (If Appropriate) <i>(In normal circumstances additional work activities should not proceed until the order and payment method has been agreed between CL and the school)</i>		
Agreed Foci: To discuss the school's remote learning offer		

<p>Purpose of the visit:</p> <p>Most children working from home now have devices and the school tries to ensure that, where there are siblings, that each child has their own device. Most parents are pleased with the offer and feel that children are making progress but a small number of families are unwilling to use virtual learning and have CGP books and work sheets.</p> <p>After lockdown 1 the staff, using feedback from children and parents, debated the most effective manner of delivering virtual teaching. The website has a daily timetable which includes all curriculum areas and uses Google Classroom, Purple Mash and Zoom. Stop and Learn is also used by children in Years 5 and 6 which helps them get individual support from their teacher. From Year 2 upwards all children have 2 daily differentiated small group live teaching sessions, live assembly and a story read at the end of the day. Other teaching is done by videos which are uploaded onto the Kentish Town YouTube channel so that children can do the work at their own pace and work off - line. This also means that children and parents can go back to videos and embed learning.</p> <p>In Year 1 phonics teaching is delivered in small groups by Zoom and they also have assemblies and story reading.</p> <p>In EYFS the teacher reads daily stories to the group in school and those at home. The reception teacher is sending home letters and sounds videos for phonics and she is going to be teaching phonics live to groups from 8.2.21.</p> <p>1-1 reading is used when teachers believe it to be useful for individual children.</p> <p>The Headteacher and CPP were present at three live lessons, in Years 4 and 6 and in Reception. Teachers were skilled and engaging and it was clear that all six children working in the sessions were focused and making progress. Because the groups are small and differentiated, teaching is meticulously targeted and teachers are able to evaluate understanding and address misconceptions immediately—thus most children are making good progress.</p>
--

The CPP was able to talk to Year 6 children who said that on-line learning could be frustrating when WiFi went down or when they pressed the wrong button and had to start all over again. However, they clearly enjoy whole school and class Zooms and particularly the small group teaching. They did not think they would enjoy whole class teaching by Zoom—"it would be a nightmare!" The Headteacher told the CPP that Gillian Ingram from the CLC has been truly supportive of the school during both periods of school closure.

Next step marking and teacher response supports the feedback process and the SEND team are working with all teachers to ensure that differentiation is appropriate and helpful. There is a really wide range of ability at Kentish Town and the expertise of the leaders of the two resource bases is invaluable.

The school is vigilant in monitoring take up and contacts families if children are not signing in. In addition, all children have a weekly phone call and vulnerable children have as many calls as necessary.

There are four members of the Senior Leadership Team and each has two year groups for whom they have first responsibility. This monitoring ensures that staff are supported and that provision is consistently as high as possible. Although the school feels that its offer is good no one is complacent and staff are always looking for ways to improve.

There are on average 65 children working in school—mostly vulnerable children. On Friday 29th Jan:

EYFS has 15 (3 with ECHPs)	Year 3 has 14 (3 EHCPs)
Year 1 has 10 (3 with ECHPs)	Year 4 has 6 (1 EHCP)
Year 2 has 10 (3 EHCPs)	Year 5/6 has 13 (2 EHCPs)

A rota has been drawn up so that TAs are mostly responsible for ensuring children are following the on-line teaching in school with teachers coming in regularly, although some on-line teaching is done from home. The Headteacher had ensured that all children working in school have their own devices.

Safeguarding protocols are firmly in place and teachers are careful to report any change of behaviour which might indicate problems. Mental Health is an issue with several children and the Headteacher ensures that children (and their families) understand where they can get help. He says that support from the LA has been very helpful.

There are 40 members of staff at Kentish Town and CPD with Zoom has been easy as it is possible to have most staff present at meetings which have been focused and effective. Many teachers have used Camden Learning CPD and found it very useful.

However, this is a 1FE school which presents challenges to teachers because they have no year group partners with whom to work—and this is exacerbated at the moment. The Headteacher is very mindful of the need to support and care for his staff and is always available. He sends a regular staff newsletter and has just arranged a weekly yoga session for any who would like to attend.

The CPP asked the Headteacher how he is dealing with these onerous and demanding times. The SLT in school are extremely supportive. He also says that he is able to ask for help if needed and he turns to the CPP, LDBS advisor and the CoG if he needs to talk. He is also part of a group of LDBS headteachers who have access to a group coach.

Area of strength

Teaching of small, differentiated groups of children means that work can be targeted precisely and children make good progress.

Daily live assemblies including singing.

Use of Chromebooks purchased after lockdown 1.

Fantastic attitude of the staff who are committed to supporting families in any way they can.

Identified Actions and Support

The CPP feels that the website does not reflect the high quality of the remote learning offer. Because the Kentish Town YouTube platform is the hub of the remote learning it has made the website a bit static.

The Headteacher will address this.

Governing Body committees have been conducted on Zoom but there has been only one full governors' meeting this school year. The CPP thinks this may not be compliant. The CoG does furnish governors with a weekly written update on the work of the school.

The school believes that CPD has been helpful

Signature:

Marion Hunter

Date:

1st February 2021

Copies to: Headteacher / Chair of Governors

Once finalised this form must be submitted to internalsupport@camdenlearning.org.uk copying in the relevant Senior Advisor and Managing Director of Camden Learning