

The Federation of Westminster Special Schools is delivering differently as a response to the COVID -19 crisis

The Federation of Westminster Special Schools is a problem solving school. With the majority of its pupils accessing either a home learning offer, or a part time on-site offer, it became apparent that our pupils and their families would need additional support. COVID 19 not only threatened the physical health of our school community but also their mental health and wellbeing. Most of our families would need emotional regulation supports, rather than just online learning. The Federation soon realised that it would have to re-organise and shift the way it works rapidly to meet the needs of its pupils and their families.

The Federation was the kind recipient of a grant from both the Westminster Foundation and St Giles- in -the fields and William Shelton Education. The Federation applied through the London Community Response Fund to the delivering differently fund. This funding is transformational. The money was used to buy much needed tablets to support families in accessing the online provision being developed. We could also support some of our families who had no access to the internet, connecting them to the school community but also their friends and families. We used the money to buy personalised sensory equipment, active engagement bags that had items the pupils would enjoy like puzzles, shaving foam, corn flour and many other sensory items, these were supported with visual supports, as well as art bags for each pupil. There were many other items across the Federation and specific to individual pupils.

We are now confident that our families are supported and our young people have access to the resources they need to support their wellbeing and learning in the home.

Families have been incredibly appreciative of the items that were send home, with some families saying it has helped with engagement for their child, which has a positive impact on the emotional wellbeing of the child.

We would like to thank both the Westminster Foundation and St Giles- in -the fields and William Shelton Education. Your generosity has helped us in our time of need.



On the go Sensory Bags which includes:



A young man receiving his bag at home



Tablets to support Home Learning



Active engagement bags



Some of the items for the bags