



School Voucher Case Study

Oakfield Community Primary School
Mrs C Khan, Headteacher

2nd March 2021

Oakfield Community Primary School

Background of School / LA

Oakfield Community Primary School in Widness, Cheshire sits within the Halton Borough Council. It has 320 children of which 49% are eligible for free school meals. The Headteacher and Governing body have financial responsibility and make budgetary decisions with access to ring fenced money from the Government for specific projects.

The Challenge

Oakfield Community Primary School needed to make a decision that was best for their families - and urgently. With negative reviews surrounding the national voucher scheme, the Headteacher did not want to risk families waiting 3 or 4 weeks for their vouchers.

The Solution

The school was already integrated with Wonde, using SIMs MIS. "What was not to love" said Mrs Khan. The ability to extract information automatically and know it was accurate and timely meant the school could focus on home-schooling and onsite provision of education for their students.

Prior to the Government's confirmation, there was a concern that money spent on Schoolvouchers.com might not be refunded due to it not being part of the national voucher scheme, but at the time, the school felt that it was a risk worth taking. Once confirmation of the refund policy was in place, it seemed "too good to be true".

One of the biggest benefits in using Schoolvouchers.com was the time it saved in administrative tasks. The Head Teacher found it quick and simple to complete the ordering herself, paying via the school credit card.

To date, there have been no issues with regard to ordering and assigning vouchers. The school and parents have the provision to be highly professional and easy to use.

An unexpected benefit for the school has been the review of pupil eligibility for free school meals. In 19 instances, parents were not aware they were eligible. As a result of this increase, the school has an increased allocation of pupil premium where before, students were missing out.

The Future

Faster decisions and more clarity over the ability to choose your own voucher providers would have helped alleviate the additional stress Oakfield Community Primary School faced coming into the pandemic. Looking ahead, Wonde would always be the preferred voucher provider. Not just for free school meals, but potentially for Leavers Gifts.