

Success Story No.6 – Setting up the School with ClassDojo

May 2020

I had the pleasure of speaking with Vicky Moore from Waverley school and she shared her success with helping to set up the school on ClassDojo, to support the school's journey to implement successful home learning and support for parents.

What is your school context?

We are a special school ranging from age 3 to 19. I work with a range of ages from year 4 to year 7 and have 8 children and young people in my class who have profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex medical needs.


What has been the biggest challenge?

Becoming an expert on technology and the ways of learning at home instantly. People are relying on me to set up virtual meetings, virtual chats, upload documents, download videos, and share things online and it was a new way of teaching for me and many others in my school. Learning how to make the videos and having the confidence to film yourself has been a learning curve for all of us.

Can you share your success helping to set up the school with Class Dojo?

So at the beginning of this crisis when I knew the school would be closing, each class created a home learning pack. My class pack included PODD (pragmatically ordered dynamic display – a book full of symbols to support communication) pages to help communication linked to fun activities (blowing bubbles, water play, playdough and choosing songs, instructions for parents on how to make easy playdough) and I tried to include other practical activities to support their time at home and keep some familiarity for my pupils.

As a school it was decided to create a School YouTube channel and start uploading videos on YouTube which we all do, but then I was asked by my head teacher to be part of exploring whether ClassDojo would be good for our families to support home learning, keeping contact and sharing information.



I've learnt a lot about this platform in the last few weeks. I've been on the webinars from ClassDojo and they've taught me a lot. I've been on YouTube looking at tutorials and I've joined 3 closed Facebook ClassDojo community pages. These have taught me effective ways to use ClassDojo and then adapt this to work for our children and young people.

I've used ClassDojo resources to create and gather several PowerPoint templates such as activity boards, certificates and different posters. Other teachers can then use these, changing them and adapting them to fit the needs for their class.

I've been encouraging everyone to share as we all develop skills, so that people don't have to reinvent formats and we can make our job a little less stressful.

Through the platform of ClassDojo I have been able to share ideas and activities which are available to parents online. An example of this has been that we have been able to share Live online Soundabout sessions from soundabout.org.uk. As a school we use Soundabout a lot as it's a really effective way of teaching and learning. Soundabout is an interactive music/communication session which is effective for people of all ages with SLD and PMLD. It uses hard surfaces, resonance boards, call and response. It gives students the power to respond and take the lead.

We use this a lot at school, so it's been great to help the parents and carers gain an understanding of it. We've been using videos of us singing songs, running example sessions and giving them pointers on how to go about trying this at home.

As an example of what I've uploaded to Class Dojo, I have a session all about learning to say yes and no and looking at the movements of our head. I did some videoing of myself, and then added instructions to the post to support how our parents could do this at home with their children. As the class teacher, my role is to support the parents and give them as much to support for the pupils learning and progress at this time.

Most of the videos we've made are for parents, so they can do the activities with their children and young people. We've done a lot of modelling of how to use different resources and tools and how to help communicate with the children and young people.

I'm also using the 'staying home' story by Sally Nicholls & Viviane Schwarz. I've shared this with parents and added ideas and activities to support parents by turning it into a sensory story for my pupils. I wanted to give the parents the ideas and encourage parents to make it their own. Parents have needed reassurance that they're doing a great job

What has engagement been like?

I had all my parents join Class Dojo straight away and I have half of them uploading every week which is great. The parents have let me know that their children have responded really

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well to my voice. Some of them have videoed their children reacting, which is really lovely for me.

We have set up Keyworkers who call home and they have reinforced how to join in with what we're offering online, as well as reassuring parents that ClassDojo is not a pressure. This is also good because the keyworker can then feedback any relevant information to me.

My parents know that I am available to support them, and they have sent me messages, emails, shared challenges and successes while at home. We have kept our school open door policy in a virtual way.

What are you thinking about next?

We want to link each child's EHCP and their goal attainment targets with what we're uploading onto ClassDojo so the learning is personalised. I also want to work on graduation ideas so that the end of this school year is special for each of my pupils who may be moving onto a new class.

Any final thoughts?

I think this is a time that everyone is learning something new and everyone is trying to get by the best they can so that we do not fail our pupils and keep them safe. I hope that I'm doing my bit and making some difference to my pupils and their families.

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