



Date: 13th July 2020

Pupil Premium July 2020

A proportion of the school's budget is allocated to be used to target support for the most vulnerable children. The allocation is an amount based on the number of children on roll who are eligible for free school meals (or have been previously), the number of children in local authority care or adopted from care, and also a small sum for children with a parent in the armed forces. It can be used to support learning and/ or for pastoral work to support children's wellbeing. Each school is able to make the decisions about how to use the money in the best interests of the children.

The Headteacher and Governors have a degree of flexibility over the use of Pupil Premium. This can include purchase of resources and help towards school trips. However, we believe that the most effective support for a child is often through direct attention to help them to make progress either with learning or with their social and emotional development. To provide this support we need to pay for the staffing necessary; some specialist support will be given by our SENCO and further support will be provided by teaching assistants. We also use New Start to provide expert counselling support. For more information see their website: <http://newstartltd.co.uk/>

For 2019/20 our school was allocated £32540 based on 21 eligible children. The number of eligible children in school is rising and currently stands at 28. The budget for 2020/21 is £38060.

The numbers are not evenly spread through school; there are more eligible children in the older classes. This does not necessarily show a difference between the age groups, just that by Upper key stage 2 more time has passed in which a family may have needed to claim certain benefits. We are conscious that some families are finding it very hard to manage financially, particularly with the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and there are quite a few children in school who do not actually qualify for pupil premium but have very similar needs. Our intention as a school is to support any children who need extra support in the best way we can.

Our school achievement record shows that the pupil premium has been used very effectively to improve the prospects of the children concerned: it is not, however, appropriate to publish details in terms of percentages reaching set standards because the small groups would mean that it would be possible to identify individual children from any published data. Due to the coronavirus lockdown, all statutory assessments were cancelled for 2020 so there is no data to publish this year for any child. Our evaluation that the Pupil Premium has been used effectively is based on reviewing each individual child, their personal needs, the extra challenges faced by lockdown and evaluating how well the support given has helped them.

An example of how school has put support in place using the Pupil Premium to address the pandemic situation relates to counselling: children who had been receiving counselling support from 'New Start', which had been face-to-face before lockdown, were able to continue via online video links. Some other children were able to start counselling support using the same strategy.

During lockdown, particularly vulnerable children have been continuing to come to school to learn and be supported in their wellbeing. The school is looking forward to having all children back in September when the first priority will be to help them to settle into regular and full classes, whilst still maintaining safe practices to reduce the risk of infection. Teachers will be evaluating where their children are up to with their learning – but not by making them take lots of tests! Teachers will do this by talking to them,

listening to feedback from the children and by observing how well they manage to tackle the work they are given.

What are the main barriers to educational achievement?

Every child is different and is dealing with a combination of challenges. However, we have identified some factors which are common to a number of our eligible children:

- Attendance and punctuality: we have identified that this group has lower attendance figures than the school as a whole.
- Standards on entry: we have found that a higher proportion of children eligible for Pupil Premium join us at a point behind age-related expectations whether this is starting in Reception or joining in another year group.
- Emotional wellbeing: for a child to learn effectively they need to be in a comfortable place with their own confidence and mental wellbeing. A significant number of children in school come with emotional difficulties that can be damaging towards both their personal development and their academic development.

How do we spend the Pupil Premium to tackle the barriers?

There are some smaller, but still significant, items and the majority of the budget is spent on assistance for learning to allow eligible children to have adult support in lessons, to have time for regular one-to-one support and for specific intervention work to help to boost children's learning.

For 2019/20 the budget of £32540 was allocated as follows:

- Costs to provide Learning Mentor including training and resources £19000
- Help for families to access trips and music lessons £500
- Cost of free milk for children eligible for free meals £180
- CPOMS online management system to record and track support, concerns & actions £700
- Educational psychologist assessment for two children £1000
- Coram Life Education – specialist lessons, staff training and learning resources to enhance Personal Social and Health Education £776
- Extra TA hours for support and intervention £10384

For 2020/21 the budget of £38060 will go towards:

- CPOMS online management system to record and track support, concerns & actions £700
- Cost of free milk for children eligible for free meals £240
- Help for families to access trips and music lessons £500
- Educational psychologist assessments £1000
- Coram Life Education – specialist lessons, staff training and learning resources to enhance Personal Social and Health Education £800
- Counselling services from 'New Start' £3000 (£1000 per term)
- Learning Mentor role now part of SENCO's responsibilities £20000
- Extra TA hours for support and intervention £11820

This detail is accurate as we approach the 2020 summer holidays. The full return after the COVID lockdown may reveal a higher than anticipated need for learning support or for support with wellbeing. The school leaders will assess the need and may decide to change the allocation of the Pupil Premium to address the needs in school. If anyone would like more information the Acting Headteacher will be Mrs Victoria Gladwin.

John Belshire, Headteacher July 2020