



Hardwick Green Primary Academy

Narrowing the Gap - Including allocation of DfE catch-up funding

September 2020 – updated February 2021

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up.

Schools' allocations are calculated on a per pupil basis, providing each mainstream school with a total of £80 for each pupil in reception through to year 6. This means Hardwick Green will receive **£22,720** this year to help us support our pupils (284 pupils). Schools have to use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months. Schools have the flexibility to spend their funding in the best way for their cohort and circumstances. To support us to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation has published a support guide for schools with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all pupils. We have considered this when planning our approach for the use of this funding.

The barriers we need to address to help pupils catch up

- Many children have not regularly attended school since mid-March 2020 due to the general closure of schools.
- Some families have struggled with learning at home for various reasons, including lack of internet connection / lack of devices and due to the general climate of lockdown.
- Many children have large gaps in their phonic (reading) knowledge and are struggling with reading at an age-appropriate level. Children who struggle in reading will struggle to access much of the wider curriculum.
- Many children also have specific gaps in their learning such as spelling and knowledge of maths facts (e.g. number bonds and times tables).

What we plan to do:

We plan to provide effective interventions for all pupils who are behind age related expectations in English and maths to help them catch up as quickly as possible. We also aim to support and promote good school attendance, and support families with learning at home (both in terms of normal homework and in the event of another school closure – either partial or full).

Reading:

- In Reception and Years 1 and 2, children behind age-related expectations in phonics (reading) will have one-to-one tutoring in reading delivered by teaching assistants in school through the Read Write Inc (RWI) scheme.
- In Years 3 and 4, children behind age-related expectations in reading will take part in the Project X CODE intervention, which is a proven, research-based phonic-based reading intervention delivered by teaching assistants in school.
- In Years 5 and 6, children behind age-related expectations in reading will take part in the Fresh Start intervention, which is a proven, research-based phonic-based reading intervention delivered by teaching assistants in school.

These interventions are all from Oxford University Press and are aligned in terms of how they approach the teaching of reading. £2,255.05 of the catch-up funding will go towards supporting these interventions. Additionally, the school are spending £4,333.00 on additional reading books to go home on a daily basis to ensure children always have books that are exactly matched to their reading level.

Spelling:

Our monitoring of learning in school has found that many children struggle with spelling. Therefore, the school has decided to implement a new spelling scheme to help the children catch up with spelling. The scheme chosen is Read Write Inc Spelling, as it matches well with Read Write Inc Phonics which is used in key stage one. The cost to set up the scheme is £1147.65, and the school has also purchased training for the whole staff out of the existing training budget to ensure that the programme is delivered as effectively as possible. This was booked to take place on a professional development day in January 2021, however due to the second lockdown this has been postponed until the summer term when all children are scheduled to return.

Tuition:

For children in Year 5, we have organised 1:3 maths tuition for nine children through White Rose maths, whose materials and philosophy we already use in school. This is a significant investment to facilitate a rapid catch-up for some of our oldest children.

Other curriculum gaps:

The school is able to provide support for children's writing and maths from its existing funding, for example through use of teaching assistants. The school has also introduced a scheme called 'Rapid Recall' to support children in learning maths facts by heart (e.g. number bonds and times tables). There is no cost associated with this.

Supporting home learning:

School have chosen to use some of the catch up funding to fund a portion of the salary for our new Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Ricketts. Mrs Ricketts will be monitoring attendance each day, and will provide support to any families who have difficulties with attendance as we all adjust to being back at school again full time. Mrs Ricketts will also support parents with helping their children to learn at home.

School have also purchased home learning kits for all of our early readers, at a cost of £1545.81. These will help parents of children who are just learning to read and decode on their own.

How we will check that our plan is making a difference

Leaders in school will carefully monitor the impact of the catch up plan.

Our Early Reading lead (Miss Iles) carefully monitors all children's progress in phonics through studying the results of teachers' assessments. She is able to provide support and guidance where children are not keeping up with the programme.

Mr Jones, our assistant principal, is the school's assessment leader and each term he analyses the achievement of each class to ensure that children are making progress and closing the gaps in their learning. If children are not catching up, he is able to support the class teachers in working with the children to make sure that they get exactly what they need so that they can make progress.

Mrs Ricketts, our Education Welfare Officer, work closely with parents and families and will evaluate how supported parents feel with home learning. She will pass any suggestions for improvement to the senior leadership team to make sure that school is giving parents the tools that they need to support their children at home.

Appendix 1: Funding spend breakdown at school level

The Enquire Learning Trust will retain 20% of the funding (**£4,544**) to use for central training and support to all academies in the Trust (see Appendix 2). The rest of the funding (**£18,176**) will be spent as follows:

Aims	Items	Costs
To ensure effective interventions are in place for children falling short of age related expectations in reading.	One to One Tutoring Kit For one TA from EYFS and one TA from KS1 to deliver effective one-to-one tutoring to children falling behind.	£641.20*
	Fresh Start Easy Buy Pack For Year 5 and 6 TAs to use with children significantly behind ARE.	£843.85*
	Fresh Start Training for Y5 and Y6 TAs (3 staff) To ensure Fresh Start is delivered effectively.	£520.00
	Project X CODE Online Subscription To provide training for Y3 and Y4 TAs to ensure Project X CODE is delivered effectively.	£250.00
To provide small-group tutoring	White Rose Maths Tutoring Y5 Three groups of 1:3 tutoring for nine Year 5 children who are at risk of not making expected progress.	£832.50
To ensure all reading books are exactly aligned to the school's phonics scheme (Read Write Inc.).	Additional reading books for home readers To enhance the main reading spine in the academy.	£2957.50*
	Additional RWI Book Bag Books (Non-Fiction) for home readers To ensure sufficient books for KS1.	£538.65*
	Additional RWI Book Bag Books (Fiction) for home readers To ensure sufficient books for KS1	£836.85*
To accelerate attainment in Spelling across school.	RWI Spelling Super Easy Buy Pack x2 To put in place an effective, evidence-based spelling scheme.	£890.40*
	RWI Spelling Year 2-6 Online Subscription for three years To provide a teaching aid to the new spelling scheme.	£257.25*
To support attendance and support parents with learning at home.	RWI Parent Reading and Writing kits For every child in Reception and Year 1 (and those in Year 2 still not fluent) to practice reading and writing at home.	£1545.81*
	50% funding of EWO role to allow the role to continue into 21/22 To engage parents and support everyday home learning, and address under-attendance.	£5,500.00
	Library books – reading for pleasure To renovate the stock in the library and re-launch it to promote reading at home.	£2561.99

*Items marked with * were at a 20% discount from Oxford University Press*

Appendix 2: Funding spend breakdown at Trust level

Trust level retained catch up funding planned expenditure

	Planned activity	Allocation
1.	Trust priorities – EY and curriculum implementation	£30,000
2.	School catch up contingencies	£40,000
3.	Phonics and early reading development	£15,000
4.	TA development programme – teaching and learning	£20,000
5.	Online learning resources	£20,000
6.	Online pedagogy - CPD	£10,000