LINDEN ROAD ACADEMY



**NARROWING THE GAP**

**Linden Road Academy's allocation of DfE catch-up funding**

**September 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 years reception through to 6. This means we will receive £16, 080 this year to help us support our 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:

* The majority of children in school lost significant learning during the two nationwide school closures.
* Many families have not got the IT systems and devices at home to be able to allow access to on line learning.
* Other covid related absences, such as bubble closures and the very high rates of community transmission in Tameside mean that children continue to miss their usual, high quality, face-to-face teaching.

EY and KS1

* Many children who missed reception at the end of spring term are need support with independent learning and more ‘formal’ learning styles.
* The planned phonics programme in EY and KS1 was not completed and so children have missed sections of the teaching sequence.
* Children in EY and KS1 have missed the spring term mathematics learning from teachers.
* Year 2 moving to year 3 missed out on face-to-face Spring term.

        KS2

* Children across KS2 have missed a term of English and mathematics teaching as well as foundation subjects.
* Children have not had access to reading materials, and so have not practiced their reading skills.
* Some children have found the transition back to school quite challenging and have needed support with their emotional health and well being.

What we plan to do

* Provide intervention for all children who are not meeting age related expectations in reading, writing and mathematics using reliable methods such as small intervention groups.
* Set targets so that children can catch up as quickly as possible.
* Invest in tried and tested systems for practising reading which can be used in school and at home. The reading plus program has a cost of £6,000. £2,000 of the catch up funding will be allocated to this.
* Increase home learning opportunities through the use of on line programs – this will also aid learning if any bubbles are closed due to positive testing. School has invested in Sumdog £500 of the catch up funding will be allocated to these.
* Purchase additional catch up and revision materials for Year 6 to support their cath up prior to starting secondary school.
* Run short reading interventions using staff in school which will be additional to any learning and intervention currently taking place.
* Identify children in school who are finding the transition back into learning challenging. Target them for wellbeing support.
* Invest in EWO time to ensure attendance is as good as it can be, and that there is clarity for families around attendance expectations.

How we will check that our plan is making a difference

* Children’s attainment and progress results.
* Well being entry and exit survey for children having wellbeing support.
* Attendance reports show figures in line with the trust and national picture.
* Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Stephens to monitor monthly the attainment and progress of EY and KS1 phonics and reading.
* Miss Dewar and Mr Greaves to monitor monthly the attainment and progress of KS2 reading, writing and mathematics.
* Any children who are not making good progress will be highlighted for intervention and support. This will include the SLT working with class teachers to ensure precise teaching that will fill in gaps in knowledge.
* School is aiming for the children to catch up quickly and to be on track to make good progress from their previous key stage starting points.