

Statement: Covid-19 ‘Catch up’ Funding

In June 2020, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. Further guidance has now been released (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>) showing that the money is split between a catch-up premium and a national tutoring scheme.

The catch-up premium is funded on a per pupil basis at £80 per pupil. This will be based on the previous year’s census and will not include Nursery numbers, meaning St Patricks RC Primary School will be in receipt of £20,880 (261 x £80). The spending of this money will be for the school to allocate where they consider the need to be greatest.

At St. Patrick’s RC Primary, this money will be used in order to provide:

- Release time for teaching staff to deliver One to One and small group tuition. There is extensive evidence supporting the impact of high quality one to one and small group tuition as a catch-up strategy focussing on literacy and numeracy.
- Specific interventions focussing on the aspects of learning, such as pupils’ social and emotional needs, or focus on particular groups of pupils with identified special educational needs or disabilities.
- Effective assessment, which will be used to ensure that support is well-targeted and to monitor pupils progress.
- curriculum resources and materials that support “catch up” and mental health of pupils.

The specific aims at for Catch Up at St. Patrick’s are:

- **Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will be at least in line with those at the end of 2019-20.**
- **The mental health needs of pupils are met and supported by the school.**

Catch up at St. Patrick’s is:

(For all children)

- **Working through well sequenced, purposeful learning schemes.** For example, our school-created writing schemes are being adapted to focus on missed objectives and consolidate the basics. In maths, we will adapt our Maths Scheme and use catch up premium to purchase plans that have been purpose written for catch up.
- **Focus on consolidation of basic skills.** The core skills which enable successful learning will require increased curriculum time across all year groups. These include: handwriting, spelling of high frequency words, basic sentence punctuation, times tables recall, basic addition & subtraction fact recall and reading skills relevant to age.
- **Additional lesson time on core teaching.** Reading, writing and maths teaching will require increased teaching time in order to cover missed learning – particularly in the autumn term. In order to keep a broad and balanced curriculum, some subject areas may be taught as blocked days rather than weekly lessons in the autumn term.
- **Particular focus on early reading and phonics.** This is always a focus in the school and will continue to be so in order to develop children’s reading ability and vocabulary.
- **Assessment of learning and of basic skills to identify major gaps.** Teachers will work to identify gaps in learning and adapt teaching accordingly.
- **Time spent on mental health, wellbeing and social skills development.** This will be at the core of all catch up work

(For some children)

- **Additional support and focus on basic core skills.** Supported by additional staffing utilising catch up premium – dependent on need as identified through ongoing assessment.
- **Additional time to practice basic skills.** This again will be dependent on need of children in order to re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics) and there will be flexibility on timetables and additional teacher release to accommodate this.