

Narrowing the Gap DfE catch up funding September 2020

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 £16,320 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

- Significant number of pupils who have lost ground within each cohort. Early identification of these pupils and the associated gaps in learning is essential in order for us to plan a schedule for intervention.
- Attendance: There is a clear correlation between Persistent absenteeism and pupil progress.
- Important to maintain rates of progress of all pupils not just those identified as "Fallen behind"
- Important to maintain the breadth and balance of our curriculum offer

What we plan to do

- Cycle implemented for Pupil progress meetings/assessment/teaching/review
- Deploy existing key staff to intervention groups identified from first assessment phase
- Communicate with target parent group where link between poor attendance and progress is identified
- Employ external assistants to cover duties of key staff
- Schedule Autumn term activity
- Review impact at key points across Autumn term
- Plan for programme extension into Spring term

How we will check that our plan is making a difference

- Cycle of review written into monitoring schedule for the Autumn term
- Baseline assessments by end of week two. (18/9/20) will be compared with assessments at half term and end of term.
- Successful strategies will be planned for extension into following phase.