

Yr 7 Covid Catch-up Funding 2020-2021

Due to the global pandemic the government has allocated £650 million of universal catch-up premium funding will be available for all state-funded mainstream and special schools, and alternative provision.

The Secretary of State for Education is providing financial assistance to local authorities for their maintained schools and for pupils that local authorities place in independent special settings, in the form of the coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

Though funding has been calculated on a per pupil or per place basis, schools should use the sum available to them as a single total from which to prioritise support for pupils according to their need.

As the catch-up premium has been designed to mitigate the effects of the unique disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), the grant will only be available for the 2020 to 2021 academic year. It will not be added to schools' baselines in calculating future years' funding allocations.

Permitted use of catch-up premium funds by maintained schools

Local authorities must ensure that their maintained schools only spend catch-up premium funds in the following ways:

- for the purposes of the school; or
- for the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools, special schools, pupil referral units or hospital schools

Catch-up premium funds do not have to be spent by maintained schools, special schools pupil referral units or hospital schools, in the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

Maintained schools, special schools, pupil referral units and hospital schools may carry some or all catch-up premium funds forward to future financial years.

Summary of Expenditure

All Special School will receive additional funding set as £240 per pupil on roll in the academic year 2020-2021. As mentioned previously even though this is per pupil funding, it is not necessary or indeed the best use of the money to allocate it to each pupil.

So far, we have used this addition funds to support all pupils by developing the Sensory experience within our Hydrotherapy Pool. We have also dedicated some of the funding to support additional hours for our Parent Advocate. This is to support families of our pupils in these very challenging and difficult times.

To support pupil well-being and confidence we have purchased additional outside equipment such as bikes and scooters. This supports access to physical activity as due to the pandemic the opportunities in the evenings, half term holidays and weekends has been significantly reduced.

To support staff well-being we have provided an additional 'staff room' to enable them to take a break at lunchtime, which then reduces the number of staff interactions during the day. This impacts pupils as staff are rested and refreshed when they return to the classroom in the afternoon.

To ensure our staff are trained to support our pupils, we invested in Team Teach 'Train the Trainer' Training for two members of staff. This supports the school as we now have our own trainers, which limits outside agencies having to come into the school. we are also able to train all new staff as they arrive.

To support access to Music Therapy, we have increased this offer to two days a week. This will support our pupils in communication, mental health, as well as physical, creative and emotional development.