

Catch-Up Funding Statement

North Baddesley Infant School



In November 2020, the Government announced it would be providing schools with a Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-up-premium/coronavirus-covid-19/catch-up-premium>

Schools' allocations were calculated on a per pupil basis, providing each school with a total of £80 for each pupil. At North Baddesley Infant School we had 251 pupils on roll at the Autumn 2019 Census which means that we will receive £20,080 in total. This was paid in instalments spread across the academic year 2020-21.

The Government guidance states that "schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months, in line with the guidance on curriculum expectations for the next academic year. Schools have the flexibility to use their funding in a way that suits their cohort and circumstances, they are expected to use this funding for specific activities which will help pupils catch up on missed education."

To support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) published a coronavirus (COVID-19) support guide for schools with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students. We have drawn upon this, as well as other EEF research, to guide our investment to derive best value and outcomes for our pupils.

Academic Catch-up

During 2020-21, we ran teacher-led booster sessions, both during and outside of the school day. Robust assessment identified those children who need to catch-up in specific areas of the curriculum, and these children were invited to specific boosters designed to fill the gaps in their learning as a result of missed schooling due to Covid-19. This was primarily focussed on phonics and early reading, where gaps were most significant and had greatest impact on future academic progress.

We have prioritised catch-up in reading and phonics. During 2021-22 we researched, purchased and implemented a whole-school Systematic Synthetic Phonics scheme (SSP) and targeted in-school catch-up teaching sessions to support rapid progress and attainment in Phonics and Reading. This included a catalogue of fully phonetically decodable books and training for all school staff in the delivery of the new phonics scheme (Little Wandle: Letters and Sounds revised)

The school has utilised these funds to pay for additional teacher hours to support 1:1 and small group tuition. We have also purchased a range of online and physical resources, as well as licences for remote learning, to ensure that pupils who need to self-isolate for a period of time do not fall behind and were able to keep up with learning remotely during the time schools were required to provide remote learning. Infant Schools were not eligible for technology support under the government scheme 'Get Help with Technology' which provided free laptop devices to schools with pupils in Year 3 and above. Consequently, some of these funds were allocated to purchase devices to support remote learning at a time where this was key to ensuring families engagement with school. Additional equipment was purchased to enable more learning to take place outside, as this was considered safer than enclosed indoor spaces.

As a result of this work pupils across the school have made rapid academic progress. In Year 1, 82% of pupils met the threshold for the Phonics Screening Check, exceeding outcomes of pre-pandemic years. In Year 2, 97% of pupils met the threshold, again above pre-pandemic levels of attainment. Pupils in the 2021-22 Year 2 cohort experienced two years of interrupted education but as a school, our academic outcomes at the end of KS1 exceed Local Authority and National comparators.

Social and Emotional Catch-up

The funding has also been used to provide sporting activities, Family Support Work and ELSA to re-engage some of the most vulnerable pupils in the school. This includes the delivery of a parenting workshop (Family Links) using the school site and trained school staff. The need for this form of learning has increased significantly during the pandemic and pupils and families have unmet social and emotional needs that are a barrier to academic progress.

To date 13 families have accessed our Family Links programme with a further 10 registered for the autumn term. We are now looking to support families in other schools who do not have access to this support. Our Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum (SEL) is now supported by four trained staff and has supported the social emotional needs of 46 pupils in our school this year (21/22), the majority of which have gone on to make rapid progress and attain in-line with their peers as a result of this intervention.

Supporting strong starts

Funds were also allocated to supporting the induction of new pupils to our school during times when it was harder for pupils and parents to visit the school site. A virtual tour and welcome video helped new families joining the school familiarise themselves with the setting and supported children so they were ready for school. It also supported school applications when securing pupils numbers was more challenging due to Covid19 restrictions.

Parents have indicated through survey responses that these resources were key to them choosing the school and in ensuring a smooth transition to the school, including supporting their children's mental health during challenging transitions. During a time of falling pupil numbers, North Baddesley Infant School has been able to secure an intake of pupils that ensures the financial stability of the school.