

St. Michael's C of E Primary School Covid-19 Premium

In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. The money is split between a catch-up premium and a national tutoring scheme.

We understand that vulnerable tutoring funding is available through subsidised approved tutors. The school would pay 25% of the costs. Approved tutors would have to be used for individual FSM, SEND pupils. We are looking into this further

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. Our school has been allocated a total of £32,480 for this academic year. The spending of this money will be down to schools to allocate as they see best.

To support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation has published two support guides for schools with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students. These documents suggest schools plan using a tiered approach with respect to school improvement and also with respect to planning how to support children to catch up.

In this approach there are three tiers and the areas within the tiers which they suggest should be focussed on in order to have the greatest impact this year.

Tier 1 Teaching

- High-quality teaching for all
- Effective diagnostic assessment
- Supporting remote learning
- Focusing on professional development

Tier 2 Targeted academic support

- High-quality one to one and small group tuition
- Teaching assistants and targeted support
- Academic tutoring
- Planning for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Tier 3 Wider strategies

- Supporting pupils' social, emotional and behavioural needs
- Planning carefully for adopting a SEL curriculum
- Communicating with and supporting parents
- Supporting parents with pupils of different ages
- Successful implementation in challenging times
- Support with access to technology

It is suggested that a school's focus should be split $\frac{1}{2}$ on Tier 1, a $\frac{1}{4}$ on Tier 2 and a $\frac{1}{4}$ on Tier 3. We have used the tiers in line with our school vision, mission and values to support our decision - making with respect to how we spend our catch - up premium.

Spending:

At St. Michael's this money will be used in order to:

- Fund additional support staff to reduce the pupil staff ratio and facilitate appropriate interventions

Aims

- All children to feel safe, happy, with a sense of belonging in a community with a restorative approach
- Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups to be at least in line with those at the point of lockdown in March. This means that if a child was working at an age-related expectation in a subject in March they are working at least to an age-related expectation in that same subject by the end of the year.
- The mental health needs of pupils that have arisen as a result of the pandemic are met and supported by the school.

Catch Up at St. Michael's:

- **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 as many children will have not been in formal school setting for a number of months.
- **Working through well sequenced, purposeful learning schemes.**
Schemes are being adapted to focus on missed objectives and consolidate the basics. In maths, we will utilise the Inspire Maths Scheme as our main source of learning and we have a range of other resources to support the scheme.
- **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.

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 in timetables to allow this.