



Coronavirus (COVID-19): catch-up funding – Summary 2020-2021

Background

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of pupils were not in school from March 23rd 2020 to Sept 4th 2021 (lockdown 1) and again from Jan 6th 2021 to April 12th 2021 (lockdown 2). During these lockdown periods only children of critical workers and vulnerable children attended school. Remote learning work was scheduled via Satchel One and delivered via Zoom. A significant percentage of 'live' lessons were delivered; however, full delivery was not possible due to the large numbers of students still in school. With the first return to school in September 2020, there was a need to support students to re-socialise and be part of a community again. Students were in need of emotional and wellbeing support. Rather than 'catch-up', we looked at restarting and resetting the curriculum. We reorganised the curriculum and planned the return to school to enable all students to access the full curriculum and to be able to experience practical subjects in full. In Lockdown 2, the work mirrored the normal curriculum which would have been delivered in school, although, not all practical subjects could be replicated to the full in a home-learning setting. The engagement in lockdown 2 was far higher and, whilst some students thrived with remote learning, many found it difficult. On the return to school, curriculum plans were further adapted to help support students re-engage with learning and further develop their skills. An outbreak of Covid-19 in school at the end of the summer term resulted in more remote learning.

Catch-up funding

In June 2020, the DfE announced funding to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus (COVID19). This was especially important for the most vulnerable pupils and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who were known to have been most affected. Funding was allocated at a rate of £80 per eligible student and payments were made in three tranches: Autumn 2020, Early 2021; and a final payment made in Summer 2021. The funding was to be used to support pupils' educational recovery in line with the curriculum expectations in the DfE guidance: [actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#).

Total allocated funding for Holywell: £56,400

In line with EEF Guidance (https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Covid-19_support_guide_for_schools.pdf), we used our funding under three headings:

- Teaching and whole-school strategies
- Targeted support
- Wider strategies



A: Teaching and whole-school strategies

Action	Intended outcome	Impact	Cost	Comments
1 Additional resources for students and teachers	To ensure high quality teaching for all and to ensure curriculum provision is accessible to all in spite of Covid safety precautions	Full access to learning in Science, Music, Maths Staff able to deliver high-quality remote-learning lessons	£17,136.51	Additional equipment allowed for cleaning of resources between classes. Additional laptops provided for staff to deliver remote learning.
2 Professional development	To further develop staff skills (in phonics and spellings) To provide further resources for Maths	Improved outcomes in terms of spelling Phonics knowledge-gaps narrowed for students in Years 5 & 6 White Rose online materials available for staff and students to support remote-learning	£1,288.99	English CPD on 'Sounds and Spellings' phonics programme; Maths online resources.
3 Additional staffing to support disadvantaged and vulnerable learners	Additional Teaching Assistant support/resource to provide help to challenged students		£22,212	NB> Cost was greater than this and additional funding provided for from school reserves.
Total Spend			£40,637.50	



B: Targeted support

Action	Intended outcome	Impact	Cost	Comments
1 Intervention to support two individual students at risk of permanent exclusion.	<p>To reduce the number of opportunities for conflict within the school day</p> <p>To incentivise good behaviour with a link to social time</p> <p>To break the cycle of negativity between the students and school</p> <p>To provide additional focussed support with relational issues</p>	Both students were sustained for a limited time and both benefitted greatly from the intervention programme. Unfortunately, in spite of the best efforts of all agencies involved, both students were permanently excluded. The interventions continued after the permanent exclusion as part of their support programme.	£5,250	A worthwhile investment appreciated by both students and parents.
2 Art and Chat – wellbeing sessions and resources	To provide emotional wellbeing support for vulnerable students	Low-level wellbeing issues addressed as part of a supportive, small group community focussed on Art.	£50.47	Low-cost, high impact intervention. This will be continued in 2020-2021.



Holywell School

Action	Intended outcome	Impact	Cost	Comments
3 SEND Provision mapping software	To ensure efficient planning and tracking of SEND support	Improved provision mapping and useful tool to track accountability	£3,276	To be used in 2021-2023
Total Spend			£8,576.47	



C: Wider strategies

Action	Intended outcome	Impact	Cost	Comments
1 Additional Covid-secure resources for students and teachers (eg. testing equipment; lanyards; batteries; mops; face masks)	Reduced spread of the virus	Effective interventions for most of the year and higher level of mitigation	£1,036.45	These mitigations would not have been deliverable without this funding.
2 Motivational incentives (student and staff motivational rewards)	Improved motivation and enjoyment during a time of great stress and anxiety	Good outcomes for relatively small investment	£680.18	Graffiti Boards of school values designed by students are very durable and gave much pleasure to students.
3 Additional staffing to ensure adequate supervision in 'bubbles' and in classrooms at lunchtime	Additional Teaching Assistant support/resource to provide help to challenged students	Safe and adequate supervision of student 'bubbles'	£5,469	Invaluable and essential to student safety at lunchtimes.
Total Spend			£7,185.63	



Summary report

What is the overall impact of spending?

The Catch-up funding allowed us to deliver the full curriculum at all times during the pandemic – whether remotely or in school. The impact on student rates of learning and gaps in knowledge were hugely mitigated through the use of this funding. Although there is some loss of learning, without this funding and these interventions, the gaps would have been considerably higher.

Final spend: £56,399.60