

Report on Catch Up Premium for Covid Crisis

December 2020

Analysis:

Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy received £11,320 in Catch Up Premium to help children during and after the Covid 19 Pandemic. This funding came through in the budget for 2020-2021.

An analysis of need was conducted as children came back to school, first in smaller groups and then, in September 2020, as a whole school.

The analysis showed that most children had not lost much learning since they left school in March 2020 to go into Lockdown. The online platform, Moodle, had been launched before Lockdown and was ready to use on the first day of the Lockdown, and most of our families picked up the home learning successfully, ensuring that most children maintained their learning and skills at least at the level they were when they left in March. Some children even made progress through the curriculum. There were a few children who had not met with this success and returned to school with their skills and learning at a lower point than when we went into Lockdown.

Almost all children were, of course, behind where they would usually have been in September 2020. In particular, many children had lost the resilience and stamina they required to complete a longer piece of work or to concentrate for longer periods. Writing had been impacted more than other areas. Maths was least impacted. All children needed extra support.

We worked with children to ascertain whether they were suffering emotional difficulties or had mental health issues that needed addressing. The overwhelming majority of children were very happy to be back at school, settled well and did not require much extra emotional support but there was a minority of children for whom the Lockdown had been more challenging and/or returning to school was harder.

Intervention:

- To ensure that children could be safely supported to catch up academically, we needed small group intervention areas that were well ventilated and Covid Safe. Most of our small group intervention areas within the building are in corridors and interior rooms without windows which are not suitable, so adjustments had to be made to other areas. White boards were installed in other, external spaces and furniture provided for these areas so that the small groups could be safely taught and supported to catch up. Cost: ~£3000
- Every child was provided with their own personal equipment so that they could work and play safely within school. Cost: ~£1000
- Counselling and emotional support from our on site First Aid for Mental Health counsellor was provided. Time for teachers to meet with and support families was covered as non-contact time. Cost: ~£1000
- Software and equipment to allow teachers to provide effective intervention for children safely within their classrooms was purchased. Cost ~£1000.
- To provide a sense of normality and fun, and to promote our engaging and exciting curriculum, in light of not being able to take children offsite as we usually would, a lot of visits by various experts were, and will continue to be, provided. ~£2000

- Extra Teaching Assistant and Teacher hours to cover small group and whole class interventions to support the catch up work were, and will continue to be, provided. ~£4000