

Covid-19 Catch up Funding

In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. Further guidance has now been released (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid19-catch-up-premium>) showing that the money is split between a catch-up premium and a national tutoring scheme.

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, meaning Southminster will be in receipt of £12,880 (161 x £80). The spending of this money will be down to schools to allocate as they see best.

Spending:

At Southminster this money will be used in order to:

Purchase curriculum resources and materials that support pupils to get "back on track". These include pastoral interventions for those who may have anxieties or mental health concerns, 1:1 tuition for groups of children (delivered remotely), small group or individual targeted interventions, Rockstar maths, purchase of core subject books during Lockdown for groups of children to use at home and time to deliver NELI (language intervention programme). There is potential for funding to be used to employ a teacher 3 hours a day to offer quality first teaching in some year groups.

Aims:

The broad aims for "catch up" at Southminster:

Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will 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.

By the end of the 2021-22 year, attainment outcomes for all year groups will be at least in line with those at the end of the 2019-20 year.

Catch Up at Southminster is (For all children)

Working through well sequenced, purposeful lessons based on our Recovery Curriculum designed by specialist teachers for the Vine Trust Schools.

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.

Particular focus on early reading and phonics. The focus for phonics will be 'living and breathing' phonics around the school.

Assessment of learning and of basic skills to identify major gaps. Teachers will work to identify gaps in learning and adapt teaching accordingly. Targeted interventions led by fully trained staff will be focused very clearly on closing gaps in learning.

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.

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This will be led by our pastoral support, children will be identified by the class teacher, parent or any other member of the school community.

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 on timetables to allow this.

Catch up at Southminster IS NOT:

Cramming missed learning

Pressuring children and families into rapid learning

Teachers time spent highlighting missed objectives

Teachers time spent ticking off assessment points and extra tracking