

Pupil Premium report 2020/22

Summary of spending 2020/21:

Total brought forward from 2019-20:	£13,811.83
Total received:	£23,455.00
Total spent:	£19,733,48
Total remaining:	£17,533.35

Background

Blossom House School is an outstanding special school for pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties. The main school is based at Motspur Park, with smaller additional smaller premises at Wimbledon and Euston. The majority of pupils are supported by an Educational, Health and Care Plan, funded by up to 33 Local Authorities in and around London. For 2020-21 there were 48 pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.

Mitigating factors with spending 2020-21

During the year, there was a national lockdown in January 2021. Whilst the school remained open daily to support the most vulnerable pupils, all spending across the school was affected by the circumstances of lockdown, given that some pupils were attending with reduced hours, and some were being taught remotely.

As with other financial years, the school does not always receive Pupil Premium payments separately for all eligible pupils where the Local Authority considers that the premium funding is contained within the termly fees paid to the school. However, whether or not the school received distinct funding, the school ensures that all eligible pupils receive the associated considerations via appropriate channels so that they are not disadvantaged when compared to their peers.

Management of Pupil Premium

The school is not usually informed in advance if it will receive Pupil Premium, nor which pupils are eligible. The school is often informed by parents. However, during the Admission process for new pupils, the parents are asked whether they are eligible for, or are allocated Pupil Premium. Parents are reminded during the school year, that they might be entitled to Pupil Premium, to ensure that there is maximum uptake where it is available.

The Senior Management Team has lead responsibility for ensuring that PP funding is not simply absorbed into the main school budgets but is instead carefully targeted. Two members of SMT alongside the office manager oversee termly meetings of Pupil Premium spending, and the attendance of pupils in receipt of funding, to ensure that all pupils are

accessing the same quality of provision. There is regular contact with the school finance officer who oversees overall spending. Any pupils causing concern from the list of eligible pupils can be raised for discussion during the regular Heads of Curriculum and Therapies meetings.

All staff are aware of which of their pupils is eligible for Pupil Premium funding. A list of eligible pupils is distributed to all staff, so that any concerns can be raised with the Pupil Premium team. Any expenses are logged on a spreadsheet which collates information from across the school, and is managed and updated by the finance department. Other features of Pupil Premium management are as follows:

- Expenditure is clearly identified and discussed at least termly or is raised as an item on the agenda for SMT meetings
- Our Family Support Team intervention supports the behavioural, emotional and social wellbeing of vulnerable students
- The school's CPD programme prioritises opportunities for relevant staff training
- There is clear tracking of the provision for the eligible pupils in the school and careful liaising with all staff with regard to additional support required
- Funding is well-targeted towards attendance, social skills, behaviour or family support where these are barriers to learning
- There are frequent checks of pupil achievement including assessments for annual reviews, to ensure interventions and other types of expenditure are effective; and adjustments are made accordingly During the academic year The impact of each aspect of spending on the outcomes for pupils is reported and discussed at the time of the pupil's annual review
- All staff are aware of which pupils are eligible for pupil premium, to take responsibility for accelerated progress.

Barriers to attainment for eligible pupils

Some of the factors which might affect attainment and progress and inform the direction of Pupil Premium spending for eligible pupils are as follows:

- Speech, language and social communication impairments which prevent progress
- Weak literacy and numeracy skills which inhibit independent learning and progress
- Inadequate diet, for example, not eating breakfast before coming to school
- Low self-esteem
- Anxiety
- Fine and gross motor skills difficulties
- Inability to fund trips, activities and residential trips which are open and available to all pupils
- Disruptions caused by previous education placements/inconsistent attendance
- Behavioural challenges

Examples of expenditure to support attainment and progress for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium during 2020-21:

- Contributing towards a Service Level Agreement with CAMHS to support mental health and wellbeing
- Financing an overnight trip with class
- Guitar/ukelele lessons
- Duke of Edinburgh trip to support qualification
- Cooking ingredients to support club attendance
- Provision of a specialist laptop
- Specialist mentoring from an outside agency
- During the national lockdown period beginning January 2021, eight pupils attended Pupil Premium funded breakfast sessions at Blossom House Schools
- Tesco vouchers were offered to the parents of eligible pupils

Plans for 2021-22

- During the academic year, the school will be transferring its' assessment protocols onto the Earwig system in order to measure and track academic progress. By September 2022 we will be able to review the attainment of Pupil Premium pupils when compared with their peers
- Another member of the office team will be joining Pupil Premium meetings, in response to school numbers expanding across the three sites, and thus more tracking necessary
- The year 2021-22 began with a Pupil Premium amount credited from the year 2020-21 which totalled £17,533.35
- Termly review meetings are scheduled for December, March and July 2022

Local Authority payments as defined by the Government for 2021-22 will be:

Eligibility criteria	Primary pupil	Secondary pupil
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals within the last 6 years	£1345	£955
Pupils adopted from care, or who have left care	£2345	£2345
Pupils who are Looked After by Local Authority	£2345	£2345

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