

Title	Catch Up Premium Report 2020-21
Prepared by	Jo Clifton / Simon Pink
Date	30/11/2021



Rationale

When the Government announced the Catch Up Premium the Trust resolved to manage its use and allocation centrally. All funding received was to be spent on direct programmes for schools with no contribution to central costs. This was done to achieve greater leverage and ensure the money was used to the benefit of all pupils rather than a more fragmented approach which may have had a more limited impact.

The central objective was to move away from politically motivated short term interventions to longer term projects with lasting benefits to children particularly the most disadvantaged. 'Catch-up' funding has also been supplemented with central budget allocations to expand these programmes and tie them into our overarching educational objectives set out in the Trust's education plan.

Funding

In 2020-21 the Trust received grants totalling £835,000 for Catch Up Premium. This was at a rate of £80 per eligible pupil.

In the year £563k was spent with the remaining balance of £272k committed to be spent in 2021-22. The underspend was caused by a number of factors including:

- Further national lockdowns delaying the start of some programmes
- Difficulty in recruiting Teach First trainees/ tutors/ academic mentors in some regions
- Deferring and reshaping some programmes to ensure quality standards following review

Trust Wide Programmes

The main imperative for the Trust when the first lockdown happened was to minimise the learning lost by pupils, especially the most disadvantaged. The emphasis has therefore been on minimising lost learning rather than accepting it and looking to catch up later. This led to the creation of the Virtual School, using our Google Classroom platform to ensure that all pupils out of school had access to quality teaching and learning.

The Trust had already recruited a Director of Curriculum and Virtual Learning, plus three Regional Innovation Leads (RILs) to promote and develop our virtual offering. Premium funds were used to take RIL time out of their school to develop the Virtual School, develop the policies and procedures over its use and work with all schools on implementation.

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Further spend from the Catch Up Premium on this project included:

- Deployment of Expert Teachers across the Trust to develop curriculum resources
- Deployment of teachers with digital expertise to support the virtual school development and roll out
- Focussed development of curriculum resources for maths and MFL
- Deployment of teaching staff to man the virtual classrooms and lead the virtual learning (some isolating staff also gave their time to this free of charge)
- Support for Early Years leads on areas of learning that were needed for this age group who were disproportionately impacted by lockdowns
- The creation of the Discovery website for home learning (for roll out in 2021-22)
- A focus on SEND pupils through developing a language programme, which is being rolled out across London schools, but which will impact Trust wide
- A programme in support of EAL pupils with a third party was started, but delayed due to quality issues. A new programme which will have greater impact will launch in 2021-22. This will be less generic and more personalised for individual pupils than the first offering.

School Specific Support

A significant proportion of the funding was allocated to enabling tailored individual and small group teaching in schools for disadvantaged pupils to help them bridge the academic gap exacerbated by the pandemic. This was done through three streams:

Teach First

The Trust partnered with Teach First to place trainees in our schools. These were placed in Cavalry, Chandos, George Betts, Greenside, Griffin, Hillingdon, Kings Rise, Parkfield*, Tiverton and Woods Bank.

Academic Mentors

The Trust used the Academic Mentor scheme to place subsidised mentors in a number of our schools. These were placed in Billesley, Eyrescroft*, John Locke, Pinkwell, Shireland Hall, Shirestone and The Hyde.

Other teaching and tutoring

Not all schools were able to access Teach First or Academic Mentors due to a lack of available candidates. In these situations, or where need beyond that being met by the other streams was identified, the Trust agreed to directly fund additional staff or support tutoring from accredited third parties. This supported work in Childs Hill, Kings Rise, Parkfield, Ramnoth, Shirestone, the Hyde and Westwood.

* Placement ended early

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2021-22 Plans

With the virtual school now operating well, the Trust decided that the Recovery Premium, paid in 2021-22 would be passed directly to schools, rather than being managed centrally.

The £273k carried forward balance on the Catch Up Premium has been ringfenced for:

- Further release time for the RILs to support each school
- Remodelling aspects of the virtual school offering to support virtual tutoring
- Ongoing support for early years
- Developing the EAL offer
- Supporting the Reading for Pleasure programme, in partnership with the Open University, to promote catch up in reading in the East Anglia region
- Further developing and teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for recovery in line with the Trust's education plan
- Further developing and promoting subject development networks enabling Trust wide collaboration and curriculum development

Annex A - Programme Spend 2020-21

Project	Catch Up Premium (£k)	National Tutoring Programme (£k)	TEFAT Funds (£k)	Total costs (£k)
Teach First	286			286
Academic Mentors	23	99		122
Other Tutoring/Tuition	119			119
Virtual School	111		170	281
SEND	24		57	81
EAL				0
Arts Project			30	30
Reading Project			45	45
CPD			23	23
Total	563	99	325	987