



Covid 19 Catch Up Premium at Sacred Heart Catholic High School

The Government first published information about this premium in July 2020. They stated:

“Children and young people across the country have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). Those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds will be among those hardest hit. The aggregate impact of lost time in education will be substantial, and the scale of our response must match the scale of the challenge. We know that we have the professional knowledge and expertise in the education system to ensure that children and young people recover and get back on track. Returning to normal educational routines as quickly as possible will be critical to our national recovery.”

The Catch Up Premium for Years 7-11

The funding is allocated for this academic year only to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all students make up for lost teaching time. Our allocation has been calculated on a per pupil basis in years 7 to 11.

The 16-19 Tuition Fund for Year 12 and 13

The 16 to 19 tuition fund is a different one-off pot of money available in the 2020 to 2021 academic year only. It is ring fenced funding for schools, colleges and all other 16 to 19 providers to support small group tuition for 16 to 19 students in English, Maths, and other courses where learning has been disrupted. For example, vocational courses where assessment has been deferred because of lockdown.

Students eligible for extra tuition include those aged 16-19 who have passed GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or below. This means that students with GCSE grades 5-9 in English and Maths are excluded from accessing the funding.

Please see our separate statement of intent regarding this funding in the Sixth Form area of our website.

Use of these extra funds

Schools use this funding for specific activities to support their students to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months, in line with the guidance on curriculum expectations for the academic year.

Schools have the flexibility to spend their funding in the best way for their students and setting.

When the premium information was published in July, it was obviously hoped we would not encounter on-going issues with the pandemic. Clearly, this is not the case. We have seen a second wave of the virus from September to December, and School continues to be disrupted with positive cases, close-contact identification and both staff and students being sent home to isolate. Indeed, Newcastle upon Tyne is still in a Tier 3 Lockdown.

Accountability and monitoring

We have to account for how the funding is being used to achieve the Government goal of schools getting back on track and teaching a normal curriculum as quickly as possible.

Given the role in ensuring schools spend funding appropriately and in holding schools to account for educational performance, the governors will scrutinise our approaches to catch-up, including plans for and use of catch-up funding. This will include consideration of whether we are spending this funding in line with their catch-up priorities, and ensuring appropriate transparency for parents.

Also, Ofsted are conducting their programme of non-graded 'visits' to schools. During these visits, inspectors will discuss how the school is bringing students back into full-time education and will include us explaining our plans to spend the catch-up funding. Sacred Heart were subject to one of these interim visits in November 2020.

The DfE has also set out their Curriculum Expectations, to ensure that all students, particularly disadvantaged, SEND and vulnerable students, are given the catch-up support needed to make substantial progress by the end of the academic year.

All students receive a high-quality education at SHHS that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Our SHHS curriculum remains broad and ambitious

All students continue to be taught the full range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment. Our aim is:

- To ameliorate the effects of the school's closure due to COVID-19
- To reduce the attainment gap between disadvantaged students and their peers
- To continue to provide learning activities in specialist, COVID secure, spaces
- To ensure that students are not further disadvantaged should they have to isolate through varied online learning provision, a virtual curriculum
- To provide targeted student support and general period 6 catch-up drop in sessions
- To ensure that students are able to access and achieve the next stage of their education

Please see the separate letter sent to all parents in early December outlining our Catch-Up offer – this can be found in the 'Covid' area of our school website.