



FLORENCE MELLY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



**THE MAIN BARRIERS TO LEARNING
AND
OUR 2018/19 PRIORITIES**

The Main Barriers to Learning for Our Pupils

Some of our children start school well below national expectations as a result of limited experiences from birth, often stemming from vulnerable families. In order to address children's development gaps we direct a range of resources, interventions and strategies for both children and parents. Barriers and challenges faced by some of our disadvantaged pupils are many and varied and they often increase in complexity as the children get older. Please find a non-exhaustive list of the main barriers our children face below:

- (1) Poverty
- (2) Vulnerable parenting – dysfunctional home: mental health, domestic violence, poor basic skills, unemployment, drugs and alcohol
- (3) Poor nutrition
- (4) Poor language/communication skills
- (5) Immature development socially, emotionally and physically
- (6) Challenging behaviour
- (7) Poor self-esteem/lack of confidence (children and parents) resulting in low expectations and aspirations.
- (8) Limited life experiences and access to everyday opportunities
- (9) Limited involvement in school and poor attendance
- (10) Lack of access to technology and leisure activities
- (11) Specific learning/health needs which have not been identified/accepted by families resulting in delayed intervention and support e.g. ASC

Our Objectives for Pupil Premium

- (1) The pupil premium funding will be used to provide additional educational support to improve the progress and to raise the standard of achievement for pupils disadvantaged by barriers to learning.
- (2) The funding will be used to narrow and close the gap thus 'diminishing the difference' between the achievement of these pupils and their peers.
- (3) In line with its Equal Opportunities Policy the school will use the additional funding to address any underlying inequalities between pupils eligible for pupil premium which causes potential barriers to learning and others.
- (4) We will ensure that the additional funding reaches the pupils who need it most and that it makes a significant impact on their education and lives.

Our 2018/19 Priorities

As a school, we have identified six main target areas to help 'diminish the differences' between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils in 2018/19. These are listed below and are integral to our 2018/19 pupils premium spending.

- (1) Close the attainment gap at GLD/Target pupils transitioning from EYFS to Year 1.
- (2) Diminish the differences in attainment between disadvantaged and all pupils across the school; particularly those in Year 4 and Year 6.
- (3) Improve the rates of accelerated progress made by disadvantaged pupils across the school.
- (4) Improve the attendance of PP pupils, particularly those who are persistently absent.
- (5) Pupils are exposed to a wide range of social/cultural and sporting experiences and provide opportunities and experiences which would normally be 'out of reach'.
- (6) Further develop an ethos of high attainment for all pupils.