

Ravenscliffe High School and Sports College



COVID-19 Catch Up Strategy 2020-21

Introduction

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. This is especially important for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. This funding includes:

- a one-off universal £650 million catch up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all students make up for lost teaching time
- a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help, which includes:
- a schools programme for 5 to 16-year-olds – for more information, see the National Tutoring Programme FAQs
- a 16 to 19 tuition fund
- an oral language intervention programme for reception-aged children

Funding Allocations

As a special school, Ravenscliffe is allocated £240 per planned place for the 2020/21 academic year. As a result, the School will receive a total of **£33,600** in COVID-19 Catch Up funding (based on 140 places).

Using Catch Up funding

Schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their students to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months. Whilst schools can use their funding in a way that suits their cohort and circumstances, they are expected to use this funding for specific activities which will help students catch up on missed education.

Barriers to educational achievement faced by students who attend Ravenscliffe High School

All students who attend Ravenscliffe High School have an EHC plan. Naturally, students with EHC Plans have additional learning needs which present challenges to educational achievement if the correct strategies and interventions are not put in place. These barriers have only been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been significant disruption to the amount of time students have been able to spend in school (in particular during the first lockdown period), and also huge changes to the way in which the school is now operating on a daily basis. As a result, the barriers already faced by our young people are now even more significant. They are as follows:

- Disruptive behaviour and behaviours that challenge.
- An inability to express feelings due to associated disabilities and conditions.
- Low self-esteem, confidence, and poor mental wellbeing, particularly in those students more aware of their disability in comparison with mainstream peers.
- Social Isolation, as many students have limited access to social activities beyond the school day.
- Poor parental engagement and participation in school life. Ravenscliffe High School feels strongly that an engaged parent/carer leads to an engaged and active learners.

How Ravenscliffe High School has used its COVID-19 Catch Up Funding

	Cost	Aim	Outcomes
Family Liaison Officer	£13,972 <i>of salary, costs and resources to be met by COVID Catch Up</i>	The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of our young people and their families. As a result, the workload of the FLO has increased significantly, warranting a move from 3 days per week to full time working.	<p>Improved attendance or educational engagement at home of identified students whose home circumstances are a contributing factor to their absenteeism. This includes those families who have kept their son/daughter away from School as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>Improved relationships between home and school to encourage families to play an active and engaging role in their children’s education. The relationship between the School and families has at times been fraught given the tough decisions that have needed to be taken in terms of which students to offer places to. The FLO has helped families come to terms with and understand these decisions.</p> <p>Supporting families to access third party services and professionals to help with non-educational issues in order to facilitate a more settled home environment. Families with existing issues at home have seen this deteriorate, and those families with historically stable home circumstances have seen issues arise since the pandemic began in March last year.</p> <p>Reducing the likelihood of safeguarding incidents occurring as a result of open and trusted dialogue with families. The School will identify families that it deems to be vulnerable and will intervene early in an attempt to put support mechanisms in place. The FLO has been invaluable in ensuring regular and high quality contact with those students whom the School deems to be at risk, ensuring all possible measures are in place to keep them safe at home.</p>
Laptops, iPads and associated hardware	£17,613	The purchase of laptops, iPads, cases and charging trolleys to support the new “bubble” arrangements in School. These devices are essential if the school is continuing a high-quality face to face offering.	<p>In order to safely accommodate students in School, the cohort has been arranged into “bubbles”. Interaction with other bubbles is prohibited, and as such movement around the site and into different classrooms is restricted. This presented significant operational challenges in terms of safe access to resources, in particular computers, when trying to minimise cross contamination and maintain high levels of infection control.</p> <p>As a result, all students now have safe and hygienic access to sufficient levels of technological resources. These new devices act as key learning tools across the</p>

			<p>curriculum, ensuring there is no detriment to the quality of education on offer despite the on-going pandemic.</p> <p>Importantly, these devices are also available on short term loan (in the absence of sufficient numbers of government funded laptops) should students be required to self-isolate or learn remotely. Our community is diverse, and many families do not have the required equipment at home to support extended periods of home learning. These devices are therefore essential in minimising the disruption to a student's education, thus preventing them from falling behind.</p>
Remote Learning Software	£1,425	The purchase and provision of remote learning software packages to allow students to learn at home when they cannot be in School.	<p>In October, it became a legal duty for School's to provide remote learning for students who could not attend School due to COVID-19. The diverse needs of our community makes this a complex proposition. In response, software packages including Purple Mash and MyMaths were purchased to complement the remote learning offers prepared by School teaching and support staff.</p> <p>These packages are can be adapted to meet the needs of individual learners, and will support students to learn and retain in the absence of regular face to face teaching.</p>
Additional curriculum, site and safety resources.	£4,208	The provision of additional resources to support bubble learning, and adaptations to the School site to reduce the likelihood on infection thus ensuring as many students as possible can be accommodated.	<p>Government guidelines have set out the arrangements for the sharing of resources during the pandemic in order to maintain high levels of infection control. As a result, additional resources have been purchased to ensure limitations on the sharing of educational resources is not an additional barrier to pupil attainment.</p> <p>Resources have also been required to create home learning packs for those students who may have difficulty access remote/online learning in its more traditional sense. These are particularly targeted at sensory and semi-formal learners, and have helped to ensure there is still a high quality education offer for those students despite them not being physically in school.</p> <p>In order to keep the school site as safe as is practicably possible, a number of adaptations have been made. Without these, our ability to safely accommodate students would be reduced. This includes, but is not limited to, access control for automatic doors (thus removing frequent touch points), and safety signage.</p>
Total	£36,592		