

Division(s):

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 FEBRUARY 2014

THE USE OF PUPIL PREMIUM IN OXFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

Report by Sue Bainbridge, Schools and Learning Manager

Introduction

1. The pupil premium is additional funding to help schools close the attainment gap between children from low income and other disadvantaged families and their peers. Evidence from national attainment and achievement data indicates that children on free school meals and those that are looked are not achieving expected levels of progress in reading writing and mathematics and a significant proportion are at risk of truancy or exclusion.

Holding schools to account for the use of Pupil Premium

2. The Pupil Premium funding can be spent in a number of different ways however the benefits must be quantifiable. Schools are expected to publish details on their websites of their Pupil Premium allocation and their planned spend for the year ahead. They are also expected to publish a statement for the previous year confirming the funding, how the money has been spent and the impact that this funding has had on pupil outcomes.

The Ofsted framework

3. During Ofsted inspections there is a particular emphasis on how well gaps are narrowing both within the school and in comparison to national trends with specific reference to children who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Schools need to ensure that the relevant pupils are clearly identified in the school's tracking system so that evidence of their performance is clear. They will be expected to identify individual and whole school initiatives that have impacted on individual outcomes and how funding has been used to raise aspirational outcomes.

Using research based practice to inform guidance to schools

4. Research has been carried out by a range of professional to help to build a picture of the needs of pupils eligible for pupil premium and to provide clues about the areas where schools might need to intervene to improve outcomes. When compared to their peers this group of pupils are found to:
 - have less home support
 - have weaker language and communication skills
 - be more likely to have significant difficulties in basic literacy and numeracy skills

- experience more frequent behaviour difficulties
5. The work of the DfE funded Education Endowment Foundation has identified what works to improve outcomes for this group and this includes:
- Effective feedback on learning
 - Metacognition and self-regulation
 - Peer tutoring
 - Early intervention
 - One to One tutoring
 - ICT
 - Phonics
 - Parental involvement

Promoting effective practice across Oxfordshire schools

6. There are a number of ways that best practice is promoted across Oxfordshire to improve outcomes using the Pupil Premium funding. These include:
- **The annual conference for SENCOs** and inclusion leads on raising the achievement for vulnerable learners have promoted the work of the Education Endowment Foundation and the Sutton Trust to ensure that all schools have access to this information. At these events schools had the opportunity to share effective practice and to develop local networks to continue to trial approaches and discuss outcomes with colleagues
 - **School intervention Leaders** working in identified underperforming schools have provide bespoke training which has both shared effective practice and enabled school staff to reflect upon their own interventions to build upon the practice that has impacted on outcomes with Pupil premium funded groups.
 - The focus of the new tranche of **Aspiration Networks** is on use of the Pupil Premium. Schools working in partnership have been encouraged to bid for additional funding to develop their practice further and then to support other schools in their partnership to benefit from successfully trialled interventions. The focus of the networks include: use of intensive literacy and numeracy support, one to one tuition and working in partnership with parents.
 - **The regional HMI** for the South East is also working in partnership with OCC, the Teaching School Alliance and schools to provide school to school support for the using Pupil Premium. The data team in conjunction with HMI have identified schools that are very good at closing the gap for Free School Meals pupils and those that are less successful. A series of local events are taking place to share best practice form the successful schools and for them to provide a mentoring role to partner schools to help them to build the capacity to develop their own effective practice.

Financial and Staff Implications

7. There are none as pupil premium is directed to schools. This is an item to share best practice in schools.

RECOMMENDATION

8. **The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of this report.**

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Background papers:

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