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Guidance

Catch up premium

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This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-up-premium-coronavirus-covid-19/catch-up-premium>

What catch-up funding is for

The government 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 pupils make up for lost teaching time
- a £350 million National Tutoring Programme (<https://nationaltutoring.org.uk/>) 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 (<https://nationaltutoring.org.uk/faqs>)
 - a 16 to 19 tuition fund (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-16-to-19-tuition-fund>)
 - an oral language intervention programme for reception-aged children (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-up-premium-coronavirus-covid-19/the-reception-year-early-language-programme-neli>)

Eligibility

The following settings are eligible:

- primary, secondary and all through local authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools
- local authority-maintained special schools
- special academies and free schools
- special schools not maintained by a local authority
- pupil referral units
- alternative provision (AP) academies and free schools
- local authority-maintained hospital schools and academies
- independent special schools

We will provide funding to local authorities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans who are educated in independent special schools based on the number of such pupils in their area.

Funding allocations

School allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis.

Mainstream school will get £80 for each pupil in from reception to year 11 inclusive.

Special, AP, and hospital schools will get £240 for each place for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

We have applied additional weighting to specialist settings, recognising the significantly higher per pupil costs they face. A typical primary school of 200 pupils will receive £16,000 while a typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will receive £80,000.

Payment schedule

Schools will get funding in 3 tranches.

1. Autumn 2020 – this is based on the latest available data on pupils in mainstream schools and high needs place numbers in special, AP, hospital schools and special schools not maintained by a local authority.
2. Early 2021 – based on updated pupil and place data. This payment will also take account of the initial part payment made in autumn 2020 so that schools will receive a total of £46.67 per pupil or £140 per place across the first 2 payment rounds.
3. Summer 2021 term - a further £33.33 per pupil or £100 per place.

How funding allocations are calculated

For mainstream schools, we will use the 4 to 15 pupil headcount from the October 2020 census. For special, AP and hospital schools, we will use:

- 2019 to 2020 academic year place numbers from the published local authority 2019 to 2020 financial year budget returns for local authority-maintained schools
- the published high needs place numbers for the 2020 to 2021 academic year for academies and special schools not maintained by a local authority

Similar to the pupil premium (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium#use-of-the-pupil-premium>), schools should use the sum available to them as a single total even though funding is calculated on a per pupil or per place basis. Funding will only be available for the 2020 to 2021 academic year and will not be added to schools' baselines in calculating future years' funding allocations.

Using catch-up funding

Schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months, in line with the curriculum expectations for the next academic year in actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-3-curriculum-behaviour-and-pastoral-support>).

While 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 pupils catch up on missed education.

To support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has published a coronavirus (COVID-19) support guide for schools

(<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/covid-19-support-guide-for-schools/#nav-covid-19-support-guide-for-schools1>) with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students.

To support schools to implement their catch-up plans effectively, EEF has published the school planning guide: 2020 to 2021 (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/guide-to-supporting-schools-planning/>). This will provide further guidance on how schools should implement catch-up strategies and supporting case studies to highlight effective practice.

Accountability: school leaders and governors

School leaders must be able to show they are using the funding to resume teaching a normal curriculum as quickly as possible following partial or full school closure.

Governors and trustees should scrutinise schools' approaches to catch-up from September 2020, including their plans for and use of catch-up funding. This should include consideration of whether schools are spending this funding in line with their catch-up priorities, and ensuring appropriate transparency for parents.

Monitoring by Ofsted

Ofsted will visit some schools during the autumn 2020 term to discuss how they are bringing pupils back into full-time education. These discussions may include plans schools have to spend their catch-up funding. Ofsted may resume routine inspections from January 2021 although the exact timings are being kept under review.

When routine inspections restart, Ofsted will make judgements about the quality of education being provided and how school leaders are using their funding and catch-up funding to ensure the curriculum has a positive impact on all pupils.

There's further information on monitoring and inspections in the actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-4-assessment-and-accountability>).

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