

COVID Catch Up 2020- 2021

The DfE has allocated £650 million to be spent on ensuring all students have the chance to catch up and supporting schools to enable them to do so. Whilst headteachers will decide how the money is spent, the Education Endowment Foundation has published guidance on effective interventions to support schools. For students with complex needs, schools should spend this funding on catch-up support to address their individual needs.

The DfE has also set out the following 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.

Education is not optional

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

The curriculum remains broad and ambitious

All students continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.

Schools should set out how they will allocate the additional funding to support curriculum recovery this academic year. The EEF guidance suggests a 3-tiered* approach:

1 Teaching

- High-quality teaching for all
- Effective diagnostic assessment
- Supporting remote learning
- Focusing on professional development

2 Targeted academic support

- High-quality one to one and small group tuition
- Teaching Assistants and targeted support
- Academic tutoring
- Planning for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

3 Wider strategies

- Supporting students' social, emotional and behavioural needs
- Planning carefully for adopting a Social and Emotional Learning curriculum
- Communicating with and supporting parents
- Supporting parents with students of different ages
- Successful implementation in challenging times

Funding allocation (Mainstream Schools) (Information from the DfE)

Schools' allocations will be calculated on a per student basis, providing each mainstream school with a total of £80 for each student in Years reception through to 11. Payments This funding will be provided in 3 tranches. We will provide schools with an initial part payment in autumn 2020, based on the latest available data on students. We will then distribute a second grant payment in early 2021, based on updated student and place data. For mainstream schools, we will use the 4 to 15 student headcount from the October 2020 census. The second grant 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 student. A further £33.33 per student will be paid during the summer term 2021.

Though funding has been calculated on a per student basis, schools should use the sum available to them as a single total from which to prioritise support for students according to their need. As the catch-up premium has been designed to mitigate the effects of the unique disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), the grant will only be available for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

Use of funds Schools should 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 next academic year. ([See also EEF - School Planning Guide 2020-21](#)) Schools have the flexibility to spend their funding in the best way for their cohort and circumstances.

Accountability and monitoring

As with all government funding, school leaders must be able to account for how this money is being used to achieve our central goal of schools getting back on track and teaching a normal curriculum as quickly as possible. Given their role in ensuring schools spend funding appropriately and in holding schools to account for educational performance, governors and trustees should scrutinise schools' approaches to catch-up from September, 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.

(DfE guidance - Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium - updated 24/08/2020)