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Merton Council

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

3 November 2021

Supplementary agenda

6 Support for pupils after the pandemic

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Poplar Primary School

Elaine Spick - Head teacher

Wendy Ellis - Assistant Head teacher for Inclusion
and Mental Health Lead

Poplar Primary School

Large, three form intake Primary School

104 place Nursery

584 children in the main school

100+ staff

20 EHCP pupils

60 Pupils on SEN register

Post Pandemic Lockdown issues at Poplar

Hardships

Increase of FSM children, second hand uniform - non-logo tops, increase in mental health needs in children and families.

Increase in Safeguarding Team workload due to increase volume of calls e.g from MASH and Social services following post pandemic disclosures.

Take up of Summer HAF provision - linked with Joseph Hood

Attendance

Current attendance - 96%

On-going absences and missed learning due to Covid illness.

Last full year on site for our current Year 6 was in Year 3. Current Year 2 and Year 1 have never had a full year in school

Curriculum

Gaps in some basic knowledge and skills are monitored through teacher planning i.e. teachers adapt plans to accommodate their gaps and accommodating a greater range of learning needs. Therefore, an increase in the time needed to plan in depth.

Significant gaps in vocabulary and language skills especially in the Year 1 - NELI

Gaps in general social skills e.g taking turns, waiting to speak - across the school.

SEN

20 EHCPs-The gap between the EHCP pupils has remained consistent and in line with their needs.

40 pupils at SEN support level-These children are needing more support in the classroom post Covid 19 Lockdown due to gaps in learning which have become more apparent and the gap has increased. These children are benefitting from extra support in the classroom funded by catch up money.

• Post Pandemic Support at Poplar

Staff adapt timetable - spent first two weeks of September focussing on children settling back in to school and less focus on academic achievement. Circle time and PSHE given more emphasis.

Increase in Mental Health and Well Being provision at Poplar.

-Increase in Learning Mentors provision.

-Increase in trained ELSA's(previously 3- now 5 ELSAs).

-New Mental Health Counsellor from Off the Record.

-Camhs in school Art Therapist working one day a week in school. Family support Group set up to support Parents and children.

-Yr 5 and 6 Nurture Group.

-KS1 Lunchtime Nurture Group.

-Zones of Regulation training teaching children to develop coping strategies and self regulatory strategies.

68 (10%) pupils are currently accessing Mental Health Provision in school. (Previously this would be about 35 pupils).

Use of Catch up funding at Poplar Primary

Extra funding is based on the amount of Pupil Premium children you have - Poplar has approximately 20 % pp

- ▶ Monitoring consistency of quality first teaching
- ▶ Additional teacher support - one morning teacher across upper Key Stage Two, one an extra morning in Year 5 and 6
- ▶ Increased Teaching Assistant provision in all classes to enable more 1:1 provision and inclusion groups.
- ▶ Afternoon Teaching Assistant across Year 2 to run catch up groups
- ▶ Extra TA (4 TAs) across Reception in the afternoons to run catch-up groups
- ▶ Extra TA across Year 1 to have full time provision the whole day in each class - run catch up groups.

Catch up funding continued.....

- ▶ Extra TA across Year 1 to have full time provision the whole day in each class - run catch up groups.
- ▶ Daily maths groups in Year 6 - Deputy Head
- ▶ Weekly comprehension Group - Deputy Head
- ▶ Increased mental health/inclusion provision
- ▶ Year 6 Booster groups
- ▶ NELI Language project in Reception and Year 1
- ▶ Review of School Motto - Happy, Healthy, Responsible *became* **Ready, Respectful, Safe (MAPA).**



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