

## **Accelerated Learning Plan 2020-21**

The Education Minister recently announced funding of £29m across Wales for this academic year (2020/21) to support 'accelerated learning' following enforced school closures due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The primary purpose of the funding is to allow schools to put in place and deploy additional human capacity in order to support learners in addressing their needs following the initial COVID-19 crisis and period of school closure.

As a school we already use a range of interventions and accelerated learning programs for children in regards to supporting literacy and numeracy skill development. We recognise that these will continue to have an impact on the standards pupils attain as the school returns from the COVID-19 crisis. We will continue to ensure that the school is able to provide support for pupils' skill development following the lockdown period. Therefore, Albert Primary intends to use the Accelerated Learning Grant funding to employ a teacher / teaching assistant on a part time basis who will be based within the school and work with pupils to provide a bespoke, immediate 'catch-up' opportunity to include those pupils who are vulnerable and disadvantaged. The aim of this work also recognises that the most disengaged learners will need coaching and emotional support when returning to school following the Covid 19 closure.

The grant is only to be used by schools for additional human resources in achieving the above aim – it is not eligible to be used for equipment or consumable. Our school will be using the funding to put in place a part time catch up teacher [Yrs 1 to 6] and teaching assistant [Reception] who will be able to provide catch up and support to our specific groups of learners following the enforced Covid 19 school closure; it will also those who are struggling with their self-esteem at this time.

Details regarding the funding and spending plan in school can be found below.



**Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: Accelerating Learning Programme**

Action Impact Resource Timescale	Objective	Activities	Project Team	Resources & Costs
Accelerated Learning Programme	To recruit and deploy additional human capacity to support learners in literacy/numeracy and wellbeing following the initial COVID-19 crisis and period of school closure	<p>To baseline all pupils from Reception to Year 6 and identify target groups.</p> <p>To employ a catch -up teacher practitioner and teaching assistant (part time) to support pupils in bespoke catch up literacy / numeracy sessions</p> <p>To provide identified pupils with opportunities to engage in timetabled literacy /numeracy skill development learning activities; allowing for better engagement and progress with their learning journey.</p> <p>01/09/2020 - 03/04/2021</p>	<p>DHT [Leader]</p> <p>SMT</p> <p>Class Teachers</p>	<p><b>Funding allocation :</b></p> <p>£13,795.00</p> <p><b>Expenditure :</b></p> <p>Support Teacher</p> <p>£908.60 per week [x12 weeks = £10,903.20]</p> <p>Support LSA [0.5 week]</p> <p>£249.85 per week [x11.5 weeks = £2873.28]</p> <p><b>TOTAL = £13,776.48</b></p>

## **Accelerating Learning Programme**

*The expectation of the funding is to help schools meet the demands of the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: Accelerating Learning Programme as announced by the Minister for Education on the 9 July 2020.*

*During the crisis, it has become clear that many learners have not progressed as much as they might in terms of their progress in learning, some learners having been impacted more seriously than others have. This funding enables investment in schools to allow them to recruit and deploy additional human capacity to support learners in addressing their needs following the initial COVID-19 crisis and period of school closure.*

*The primary purpose of the funding is therefore to enable investment in schools to allow them to recruit and deploy additional human capacity to support learners in addressing their needs following the initial COVID-19 crisis and period of school closure.*

*All pupils are eligible for additional help when they return to school in September, although the scope of the help needed will vary significantly depending on individual circumstances.*

*Given that resources are limited, we will prioritise in the following way when planning the allocation of resources:*

### **Priority Cohorts for Support:**

*The funding is to be targeted at specific cohorts identified as most at risk as follows:*

- 1. Pupils preparing for examinations in the forthcoming academic year (that is those learners in years 11, 12 and 13)*
- 2. Vulnerable and disadvantaged children, as defined by a range of approaches*
- 3. Year 7, because of the disruption to the transition from primary to secondary schools*

*These specific cohorts are an indication of how heads will think about the deployment of support. The expectation of the funding is that is that, although the funding formula is based on specific learner cohorts, learners who are identified as in need of support are given the opportunity to engage with support where possible. It is therefore not reserved exclusively for the use of the three priority groups listed at points 1-3 and should be used to enable access to support where needed for children who have been impacted by a wide range of aspects of the pandemic*

*As there will be individuals not in the 3 listed priority groups who also need support, it is an important principle that Head Teachers have autonomy in deciding any further groups or individuals that they support as part of their individual school plans.*

### **Areas of Support to be provided:**

*Curriculum reform remains our central priority for education in Wales. As such the foci for support under this Programme are:*

- Literacy, numeracy and digital competence within a broad and balanced curriculum – for the examination years, this will include higher order reading and writing skills, high level mathematics where relevant, and digital competence at the appropriate level and as relevant to learners progressing with their qualifications*
- Development of independent learning skills, to enable and motivate learners in all groups to make accelerated progress by working more effectively alone and out of school*
- Support and engagement through coaching – this in recognition that the most disengaged learners will need coaching and emotional support as well as support for examination preparation and skills*

### **What the Funding Should be used to provide:**

*This grant dedicates financial resources to the creation of new capacity in the education system.*

- Schools may appoint Qualified Teachers including NQTs, Teaching Assistants and other supporting roles to the school (for example roles designed to provide coaching support), in line with the school's understanding of its learners needs*

- *The new capacity may be full time or part time, or an increase in hours for an existing contract where those skills are necessary*
- *The new colleagues might work across more than one school where clusters of schools are working in a collaborative partnership*
- *Head teachers may appoint new teachers to the school in order to release existing teachers who know their pupils best to work with them to accelerate their progress (backfilling their usual positions on a temporary basis)*
- *The skill-sets of new colleagues will need to reflect the needs of groups and learners*
- *The delivery model within which new colleagues work will be specific to the needs of the school and its learners*

*The funding is not eligible to be used for the purchase of equipment, including ICT devices, or any form of consumables and is only to be used to deploy additional human resources in support of the programme.*

*There is an expectation that schools will maximise the efficacy of the funding by pooling their resources appropriately across clusters, structured networks and/or collaborative partnerships to maximise the impact and level of funding.*

### **Monitoring Requirements**

*The provision of such a large amount of additional funding dictates we all ensure that the resources are deployed well and have the required impact. However, we all wish to minimise bureaucracy.*

*In keeping with these principles you are required to:*

- *Ensure that schools set out what they intend to do with the resources in a simple and clear plan.*
- *This plan should indicate the number of pupils included and an outline of the curriculum and staffing solutions proposed.*
- *Where schools are working in collaborative partnerships or cluster arrangements a single plan will be acceptable*

*This plan should be agreed by the school's Improvement Partner in the case of schools currently designated as requiring red and amber levels of support from their regional educational consortia.*

- *In all cases the plans should be signed off by the school's Governing Body and details of the school's approach should be made available to parents and the wider community.*

*The principals underpinning the distribution and use of this funding are:*

- *it is delegated in its entirety to schools and school budgets;*
- *the method used to determine funding at school level is in line with the WG distribution methodology*

*[Source : Welsh Government]*