

TITLE OF REPORT: Contingency Funding Application

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum decision to provide contingency funding to a school.

Background

Winlaton West Lane

The school applied for additional funding under category 4 – Schools Causing Concern Appendix 1). Winlaton West Lane Primary School was first identified as requiring improvement in May 2013 due to the below issues:-

- Pupils' achievement in writing and mathematics in Key Stages 1 and 2, while improving, is not yet good.
- Some disabled pupils or those with special educational needs do not achieve well because the planning for their needs is not sharp enough.
- A small proportion of teaching still requires improvement and there is not enough outstanding teaching.
- The more-able pupils are not always challenged enough.
- The ways in which school leaders measure the success of school improvement plans are sometimes not precise enough. This means that leaders are not always clear about how successful their actions have been.

An action plan was put in place and the school was re-inspected in May 2015.

The school was still judged to be requiring improvement due to the below issues:-

- Over time, pupils' achievement and progress vary across year groups, subjects and between different groups of pupils. Standards at the end of Year 6 are too variable and not consistently high enough. From their starting points, too few pupils make good progress in writing and mathematics.
- By the end of Year 6, the gaps in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and others in the school are not closing fast enough, particularly in writing and mathematics.
- The achievement of other groups, including the most able and boys, is too variable and needs improvement. Too few pupils reach the higher levels at the end of Year 2 and Year 6.
- Teaching over time is not good enough to make sure that the different year groups and groups of pupils achieve as well as they are able. Expectations of some teachers are not high enough.

- The pace of improvement has been too slow since the previous inspection. New leaders have not had sufficient time to develop their skills to enable them to thoroughly monitor the impact of actions upon school improvement.
- The achievements of pupil groups, are not analysed and compared over time by leaders sufficiently well to identify where gaps in achievement are widening and where action is needed.
- Leaders and managers do not analyse the information they have about different groups of pupils and their progress rigorously enough. This makes it difficult for leaders and governors to monitor the school's performance.

The school then had a monitoring visit in December 2015 at which the school was still judged as requiring improvement in the following areas:-

Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection in order to become a good school. Leaders should take urgent action to:

- Ensure that the pupil premium is targeted specifically to improve outcomes for eligible pupils
- Ensure that the quality of pupils' writing improves across the school, but particularly in Key Stage 1
- Ensure that more-able pupils are challenged sufficiently so they reach the higher levels of which they are capable, particularly in mathematics
- Update the safeguarding policy and information on the school website
- Make sure the school improvement plan has precise criteria by which success can be measured.

Following the monitoring inspection a number of leadership and governance changes were made and an interim executive head was appointed as well as a new chair of governors.

Following these appointments the staffing structure has been reviewed and the school has a new action plan in place.

The school needs to make at least one compulsory redundancy due to financial issues, however at the time of asking for volunteers 4 candidates put their name forward to take voluntary redundancy.

One redundancy will be funded by the LA under the Redundancy in Maintained Schools Guidance.

The school applied to have the additional redundancy payments of £15,905 met from contingency along £10,000 for additional resources for KS1 pupils and for training to assist the new leadership team and improve teaching and learning across the school.

Process

Colleagues in EducationGateshead had input into the review process of the contingency application, and fully support the application.

Proposal

It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the amount of funding provided to School.

Recommendations

It is recommended that School Forum notes the funding provided to the school.

For the following reasons:

- To provide funding to assist the school in improve teaching and learning across the school.

CONTACT: Carole Smith

Appendix 1

Updated Contingency Funding Criteria

The LEA will retain centrally contingency funding that **could** provide in-year support to schools for:

1. Cost pressures specifically identified and caused by a relatively large numerical change in pupil numbers, especially if it relates to a single age-group, where the change is outside the control of the governing body and where the timing of the change in circumstances prevents no opportunity to the school to plan accordingly (eg housing demolition or compulsory purchase orders, or reorganisation)
2. The correction of significant errors in the data or in the application of the resource allocation formula.
3. Emergency costs arising from incidents outside the control of the governing body of the school (eg flood or fire damage). The money allocated for these purposes will be earmarked for specific use.
4. The provision of additional resources or other special support, temporarily, in response to a school found to be in need of Special Measures within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1993 and in accordance with DFE Circular 17/93.
5. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of pupils with new or revised statements of SEN, or for statemented pupils transferring between schools within the LEA.
6. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of the admission of pupils permanently excluded by other schools. Such allocations will be determined in accordance with Regulations made by the Secretary of State **under Section 47 of the 1998 Act**.
7. Schools that are in financial difficulty, and can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to address financial issues, and that the current financial difficulties are not as a result of financial mismanagement. Schools must apply the LEA's "Model of Reasonableness" before making an application to demonstrate that they meet the criteria.

If contingency is given and a school ends the same financial year with a surplus balance in excess of 16% for primary and special schools or 10% for secondary schools the contingency payment, or a proportion of it, will be clawed back.