Perth Academy Pupil Equity Fund
Strategy Information for Parents
December 2017

Background

In 20017/18, £120m of Pupil Equity Funding is being allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Every council area is benefitting from Pupil Equity Funding and 95% of schools in Scotland have been allocated funding for pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible for free school meals. This funding is to be spent at the discretion of Headteachers working in partnership with each other and their local authority. Pupil Equity Funding is being provided as part of the £750m Attainment Scotland Fund which will be invested over the current Parliamentary term to tackle the poverty related attainment gap.

Perth Academy now has plans in place for use of our Pupil Equity Funding and we are currently implementing those plans. These plans are based on a clear and accurate understanding of our poverty related gaps in attainment, achievement, participation, behaviour and wellbeing. Two of the interventions being funded this session (Inclusion Programme and Mentoring programme) were piloted in session 16-17 through Scottish Attainment Challenge Innovation Funding and Perth & Kinross Council Closing the Gap funding respectively.

Pupil Equity Funded Interventions 2017-18

- Improved approaches to targeted inclusion including Inclusion Project Officer post (1.0FTE)
- Improved Attendance and Family Engagement including Attendance & FE Officer post (0.6FTE)
- Improved activity and outcomes in literacy
- Improved activity and outcomes in numeracy
- Improved targeted Employability & Skills Development including Employability Officer post (0.2FTE)
- Improved wellbeing through targeted peer Mentoring

6% of the PEF allocation was ring-fenced funding to facilitate innovation and seed equity projects and three projects were approved through this approach:

  - Improved wellbeing through Mindfulness project
  - Improved wellbeing through Breakfast club provision
  - Improved literacy through Language 2 (targeted transition)

Evaluation

All interventions have been planned with clearly identified and appropriate outcomes and measures. A midway evaluation is submitted by all identified Leads in December 2017, with the “end of year” evaluation submitted in March 2018. We will communicate an evaluation of this session’s activity to all parents before the summer holidays.

What can parents and carers do?

As a school we are aiming to deliver pupil equity.
This means expected progress for all and no pattern of lower attainment for young people from more challenging and disadvantaged backgrounds.
For this is to happen, it is essential that all members of our community are engaged with this agenda, understand how the school is tackling the issue and get behind our work.
We will endeavour to keep our community regularly informed of our work and its impact.

Should you have any questions relating to any aspect of this information please do not hesitate to contact me at perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk

A Scottish Government publication for parents on the Pupil Equity Fund can be found on our website.

J Lothian
Rector