

Educational Services

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Our Ref:

Date: 24/2/17

If phoning or calling ask for

Your Ref:



Pupil Equity Funding.

The First Minister launched the Scottish Attainment Challenge in February 2015 to bring a greater sense of urgency to closing the attainment gap for children. The challenge is to focus on improving literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing at all levels.

As I am sure you will be aware from reports in the media all schools in Scotland have received Pupil Equity funding which is to be targeted to support all pupils to reach their potential no matter their background or circumstances. It is allocated as £1200 per pupil from P1-S3 who are eligible for Free School Meals and is available for the Financial year 2017/2018.

For Struthers this equates to £32 000.

When planning for improvement we are to consider these key areas and these will be the fundamental drivers for our improvement at Struthers. They are:

1. Early Intervention and protection.
2. Social and emotional wellbeing.
3. Using evidence and data.
4. Engaging beyond the school.
5. Partnership working.
6. Professional Learning and Leadership.
7. Research and evaluation to monitor impact.

We have carried out extensive evaluation of our data and current interventions and from this have identified our focus being built around Parental Engagement and Involvement and Family Learning. This will be specifically in the early years. The majority of our targeted group are in P1-3 so we feel this will need to be our focus and we are going to be working with staff, parents, pupils, health visitors and partnership organisations to develop an appropriate project.

Through spending time to research what has the most positive impact on pupil's attainment we have found that a high proportion of evidence links to the impact of Parental Involvement especially at those early stages. An example of this is from the Programme for International Studies Assessment (PISA 2009) report which states:

"15 year olds whose parents read books with them during their first year of Primary school show higher reading skills than students whose parents read infrequently."

We need to ensure all our children get the best start in life. To help achieve this and give us our baseline data we would ask you to complete the attached survey to help us shape our project.

We would ask that this is returned to the school office by Friday 3rd March. We apologise for the tight timescales but this was only issued to us on Monday and we have 2 weeks to detail how our budget will be utilised to meet the many strict criteria set from Scottish Government.

What we do hope to do is create a universal project that all children will benefit from whilst still meeting the needs of the targeted group the fund identifies.

We will have some more discussion and gathering of stakeholders views at the Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd March.

Many thanks for your contribution to this process.

Mrs Jane Houston

Head Teacher.