

APPENDIX 2 - Other Activities with a focus on Narrowing the Gap 2016/7

Data analysis

- Buckinghamshire County Council is supporting schools and the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust by providing a range of analysis around outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. Results for disadvantaged pupils are included in many of the main analysis packs provided to schools, such as the LA Data Dashboard which is used as a starting point for conversations between the BLT and schools.
- We have also developed a new Disadvantaged Pupil Performance Summary for primary schools, which allows schools to view their data alongside that of their liaison and area groups. It is hoped that this will generate discussion at liaison group and area hub meetings and allow schools to work collaboratively on projects to support this group of pupils.

BLT – Head teacher support for narrowing the gap

- Narrowing the gap is a central focus of the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust's work with schools across the service. Head teachers of all schools are individually supported to evaluate current practice and identify strategies which will further improve attainment through:
 - Bi-annual business meetings
 - Educational Excellence Advisor visits
 - Focus meetings

Pupil premium reviews

- A review of pupil premium may be recommended as a result of an Ofsted inspection, as part of the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust's School Improvement Strategy, or a governing body/ headteacher may decide a review would be helpful as part of its self-evaluation.
- The purpose of a pupil premium review is to use an evidence-based approach to assess how a school is spending its pupil premium funding, and identify the most effective interventions and overall strategy

Pupil Premium Network Groups

- These have been established in the three areas of the county. These are well attended by both senior and middle leaders and have covered a range of areas such as:
 - Effective strategies for raising attainment
 - Parent engagement

- Peer mentoring and support
- Website statements and statutory requirements
- School leaders are increasingly offering to lead the main agenda item as an opportunity to showcase the impact of the strategies they have put in place.

Non-Selective Secondary School Project

- This had the aim that attainment was raised for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils.
 - All interventions involved local solutions with key stakeholders centrally involved in the decisions.
 - The various activities and interventions were characterised by a belief that high quality school improvement including both support and challenge will help accelerate progress.
 - There was recognition of the importance of school leadership and a data rich approach to tackling issues, accelerating progress and impacting on learning through improving teaching.

Training

- The Educational Excellence Advisers for Vulnerable Groups and for English as an Additional Language have developed a three-day course on “Raising the Bar” for practitioners and middle leaders with a focus on provision for the range of pupil groups who are at greatest risk of underachievement in this authority
- This will include a strong focus on EAL / PP with specific reference to disadvantaged pupils of Pakistani heritage

School to School Support

- Hubs (district meetings of primary head teachers) and liaison groups (cross-phase local Head teacher groups) provide opportunities to learn from colleagues who have successfully narrowed gaps in their schools.