

Supporting Transitions from Primary to Secondary School: Grant available for Telford and Wrekin Secondary Schools.

Background

The transition from primary to secondary school has always been difficult for some young people, particularly those with social emotional and mental health needs. As a consequence of the pandemic, lockdowns and breaks in routine and resulting gaps in learning, there is evidence that these needs have been amplified.

In order to support the transition of pupils as we head into the 22/23 academic year, the LA is again offering a grant which can be accessed by secondary schools within the borough of Telford and Wrekin, to support the initial bridge between primary and secondary provision. Secondary schools are able to bid for up to £8000 in order to support this work. Our collective aim will be to intervene early, minimise placement breakdown and encourage good attendance.

Review of 2021/22 Grant

Thank you for returning the review of the use of the funding in the last academic year. It's great to see that schools believe that this has had an impact. Overarching data suggests that for the current Year 7 there are fewer suspensions than for other year groups, fewer referrals to the Fair Access Panel for Additional Support, higher levels of attendance and schools report good engagement in learning.

There have been a whole host of interventions funded, to summarise some of these which schools are telling us have had the greatest impact:

Intervention	Impact
Additional targeted sessions with students displaying challenging behaviour. E.g. Cooking sessions, bike maintenance, drumming sessions, boxing and charity work.	Students have accessed a weekly session since Feb half term and is proving successful, with a positive effect on behaviour.
SEMH support/coaching - one to one/group coaching following the Talk about/ELSA programme	Reduction in Exclusions for Year 7 pupils involved; There is a low level of repeat exclusion (1.6%) in comparison to National (3%)
Breakfast reading club - targeted reading / literacy support	Students to make progress in line with expected ARE given their individual start points in reading
A Transition and early intervention mentor in place for 2.5 full days per week	Transition of the students into Year 7 was well managed and well resourced, attendance in Year 7 well above school average.
Support pupils in any transition events and in a summer school	Reduction in low level and high level behavioural incidents; reduced fixed term exclusions
Early intervention tools such as art based therapy and youth mental health first aid	Reduction in pupils placed on modified timetables and/or in alternative provision settings
Academic support for gaps identified on internal assessments on reading and numeracy through session 6 tutoring	For the students who regularly attend, the difference in progress is remarkable.
Small group and 1:1 sessions to develop techniques to cope with anxiety	100% attendance for identified students with high levels of anxiety

Assess students using known scales such as RCADS, Boxall Profile, SASS, SDQs and Emotional Wellbeing Surveys	Increasing attendance and reduce referrals to FAP
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2022/23 Grant

The grant of up to £8,000 is available again for each secondary school (maintained and Academy partners). The grant can be made available immediately, following receipt of an application form and approval of the bid. It is hoped that schools will be able to free up some staffing to start this transition work in the Summer Term. Schools may use the funding to support with supply costs that release existing staff so that they can undertake transition work.

Each school is different and has its own staffing model to support young people. The object of this pilot is not to impose or suggest one particular model of working but to allow schools the flexibility of building this pilot into their existing structures and systems. We also recognise that schools will have transition work planned and will already be talking to primary schools to identify those who will need additional support at the beginning of term. It is hoped that this pilot will be able to add to and enhance that planned approach.

How to make a bid for funding

To qualify for the transition funding of up to £8,000, we would like secondary schools to briefly outline how they will proceed with this pilot. Please use the attached proforma for your response, to include the following:

- Focus – how many young people will be the focus for your pilot and what are their needs?
- Activity – what are the planned activities? This should include details of how you will engage young people (and families) in Year 6 as well as follow up work in Year 7.
- Funding – a high level costed model of how you will use the funding available. If you intend to top this up from the schools budget please outline this also.
- Proposed outcomes – please provide details of intended outcomes for pupils involved in this project. We have included 3 which we ask you to include and to which you can add:
 - Reduction in or minimal referrals to FAP for Year 7 pupils involved
 - Reduction in Exclusions for Year 7 pupils involved
 - Good attendance for Year 7 pupils involved
- Evaluation – provide details of how will you measure the impact of the funding provided.

All bids should be submitted to Andy.Cooke@telford.gov.uk. Feedback will be provided within 5 days of receiving a bid (during term time). Funding can be released immediately upon approval of a bid. Schools will be asked to submit a brief evaluation of the difference funding has made towards the end of the Autumn Term 22/23.

For further information please contact Andy Cooke.

Transition Fund 2022/23

Name of School:	
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Name of person submitting bid:	
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Focus:

Activity:

Funding:

Proposed Outcomes:

Evaluation:

Requests for more information, and all bids should be submitted via email, to:

Andy.Cooke@telford.gov.uk