

The Catch Up Premium at NUSA

What is the Catch Up Premium?

The Catch Up Premium is additional funding given to schools to provide additional support to those Year 7 pupils that did not reach the 'expected standard' in reading or maths at the end of Year 6. For pupils who joined NUSA in September 2015, this means those pupils that did not secure a level 4 or better in their KS2 reading and/or maths SATs.

NUSA received £500 for each of the 34 pupils deemed to be eligible for the catch up premium in 2015-16, which gave a total of £17,000.

How did NUSA use its Catch Up Premium last year?

Some of NUSA's catch up premium is invested into our pupils' curriculum provision. Our lowest attainers are taught in our 'Launch Pad' classes, where they benefit from very small class sizes, and additional classroom support. The staff that teach and support these classes are provided with additional training (e.g. phonics), and learning is further supported through investment in specific resources.

Some of NUSA's catch up premium is invested into withdrawal groups for reading and maths. Pupils come out of their normal lessons to receive more intensive coaching in order to accelerate their progress and help them to reach the expected standards. The catch up premium contributes towards the cost of the staff and the materials used. (e.g. Catch Up Literacy, Lexia, Dancing Bears, and Numicon)

Some of NUSA's catch up premium is invested into reading schemes, like 'accelerated reader'. Pupils follow a structured programme of reading that involves regular testing of their understanding, which in turn provides important information that teachers can use when planning lessons. The catch up premium contributes towards these subscription and resource costs. It also helps us to train our peer and volunteer reading partners, and to pay for reading age tests.

Some of NUSA's catch up premium is invested into numeracy schemes like Numicon, which are used with small groups to help pupils build their mathematical understanding and confidence. The Catch Up Premium contributes to the costs of staff training, and resources for teachers and pupils.

Some of NUSA's catch up premium is invested into our transition processes that are developing our understanding of the key stage two curriculum, and the ways in which we can most effectively build upon the work of our primary colleagues. The catch up premium contributes towards the cost of releasing teachers to visit and work with our primary feeder schools, and in 2015-16 this included laying the foundations for an English and maths transition project, due to start in September 2016. It also contributed towards the costs of our Transition Summer School, which in part targets those pupils eligible for the catch up premium.

What was the impact of NUSA's Catch Up Premium for 2015-16?

Leaders at NUSA evaluate the effectiveness of our Catch Up strategies by analysing pupils' progress in English and Maths, and comparing it to what we would consider to be 'expected progress':

Pupils' progress in English

In September 2015, 39 Year 7 pupils had a Key Stage 2 English level lower than 4. At NUSA we track pupils' progress on a scale between 0 and 90 points. We would expect this particular cohort of pupils to have made 3.6 points progress in English on average. They made 7.0 points progress on average:

KS2 English Level	Pupils in September	Expected Points Progress in 12 months	Average Progress Achieved in 12 months	Pupils in July
3a	9	5	10.7	7
3b	12	4	7.6	1
3c	11	3	5.3	4
Lower than L3	7	2	3.9	6
Total	39			18

The number of pupils working below (old National Curriculum) level 4 in English in this cohort has reduced from 39 to 18. These pupils will continue to receive additional support in Year 8.

Pupils' progress in Maths

In September 2015, 38 Year 7 pupils had a Key Stage 2 Maths level lower than 4. At NUSA we track pupils' progress on a scale between 0 and 90 points. We would expect this particular cohort of pupils to have made 3.9 points progress in Maths on average. They made 6.0 points progress on average:

KS2 Maths Level	Pupils in September	Expected Points Progress in 12 months	Average Progress Achieved in 12 months	Pupils in July
3a	15	5	5.1	5
3b	10	4	7.2	1
3c	6	3	4.7	2
Lower than L3	7	2	7.2	0
Total	38			8

The number of pupils working below (old National Curriculum) level 4 in Maths has reduced from 38 to 8. These pupils will continue to receive additional support in Year 8.

What are NUSA's plans for 2016-17?

NUSA's plans for 2016-17 will build upon the successes of last year, but they will inevitably be affected by the changes to the Key Stage 2 SATs, and which pupils under this new system will be deemed eligible for the Catch Up Premium. The Department for Education has stated:

In 2016 to 2017 schools will receive the same overall amount of year 7 catch-up premium funding they received in 2015 to 2016, adjusted to reflect the percentage change in the size of their year 7 cohort, based on the October 2016 census.

This has allowed us to plan our provision in broad terms, and it is our intention to continue to develop and improve the additional support we offer pupils who have not reached the 'expected level' in reading and/or maths by the time they leave primary education:

We will continue to provide additional curriculum resources for the lowest attaining pupils in Year 7.

We will increase the number of pupils that benefit from withdrawal sessions, particularly for maths.

We will continue to deliver reading schemes that help pupils to reach their chronological reading age.

We will release one maths teacher and one English teacher for one morning a week to work with our primary feeder schools on improving the cohesion between their Year 6 curriculum and our Year 7 curriculum in English and maths.

Date of last review: September 2016

Date of next review: September 2017