



2021-0041991RWPO

**Robin Walker MP**

Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Harry Catherall,  
Chief Executive, Oldham Council  
By email: [harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk)

4 October 2021

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 26 August, addressed to the Prime Minister, regarding the education recovery programme. Your letter has been passed to this Department and I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

Every child and young person in the country has experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19, and those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds will be amongst the hardest hit. Over the past year, we have made three major announcements to support education recovery, signifying over £3 billion of additional funding. Each has been a step in our efforts to make sure children and young people are supported through their ongoing education recovery, using evidence-based practice.

In February 2021 the Government announced the recovery premium, a new one-off grant worth over £300 million for state-funded schools in the 2021-22 academic year. Building on pupil premium, this focuses on an expansion of one to one and small group tuition for those pupils who need it the most.

We recognise that educational loss is significant and widespread. However, we also know that disruption has been more acute for some pupils, particularly those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. The one-off recovery premium allocations will reflect disadvantage funding eligibility. In this way, schools with more disadvantaged pupils will receive larger amounts. Primary schools will receive on average approximately £6,000 and most secondary schools will receive on average just over £22,000.

Schools have flexibility in how they choose to spend the recovery premium, and they are encouraged to consider using it to support a wider cohort than the pupils who attract the funding. The premium will be paid as a grant to all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in England in four payments over the course of the 2021-22 academic year.

The Department has updated the relevant guidance with a short guide to help schools make best use of their recovery premium, alongside their pupil premium funding, which is available at: [tinyurl.com/22k6ae5v](https://tinyurl.com/22k6ae5v).

In addition to the recovery premium, a further £200 million was made available to assist secondary schools with the running of summer schools. This programme supported eligible secondary schools across the country to provide academic support and enrichment activities over the summer period. We recommended a focus on incoming Year 7 pupils, but schools had the flexibility to support those most in need. The exact content and structure of the programme was at the discretion of each school. Further information regarding the summer schools programme is available at: [tinyurl.com/zbkwxp9](https://tinyurl.com/zbkwxp9).

On 2 June, the Government announced an additional £1.4 billion to support education recovery for children ages 2 to 19 in schools, colleges and nurseries. This includes £1 billion for tutoring, which, combined with the funding for tutoring we have already announced, will allow us to provide up to 100 million tutoring hours for children and young people across England by 2024. This is the third step in our wider commitment to education recovery, which represents over £3 billion worth of programmes overall.

The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) is an ambitious scheme which supports schools to access targeted support for disadvantaged pupils who need the most help to catch up. The NTP is comprised of three elements: a tuition programme for 5 to 16 year olds, a 16 to 19 tuition fund, and a targeted early language support programme for reception-aged children.

The tuition programme for 5 to 16 year olds consists of two pillars. All schools can access high quality subsidised tuition from approved tuition partners, and our most disadvantaged schools are supported to employ in-house academic mentors to provide intensive support to their pupils. Children aged 5 to 16 in receipt of tutoring will receive up to 15 sessions of small group or individual tuition to support them to catch up. Further details are available at: [tinyurl.com/YY6ecbPJ](https://tinyurl.com/YY6ecbPJ). Additionally, schools serving the most disadvantaged areas are being supported to employ in-house academic mentors for their pupils. Information about this is available at: [tinyurl.com/Y6rP5d84](https://tinyurl.com/Y6rP5d84).

The tuition partner and academic mentor pillars of the NTP will be provided with £218 million of new funding. This is addition to the £215 million already announced to be invested in the academic year 2021-22.

The NTP has also provided funding to support small group tuition for 16 to 19 year olds through the 16 to 19 tuition fund. Further details are available at: [tinyurl.com/Y6m52tQm](https://tinyurl.com/Y6m52tQm). We are extending the 16 to 19 tuition fund for a further two years, which will be the equivalent of 2 million 15 hour courses for 16 to 19 year olds by 2024.

Additionally, the NTP is funding the improvement of early language skills in reception classes this academic year. Information about this programme is available at: [tinyurl.com/Y294Grdh](https://tinyurl.com/Y294Grdh).

We will build on the successful NTP by introducing an additional school-led approach to tutoring from 2021-22. Schools will be provided with £579 million of funding to develop this localised school-led tutoring. Working alongside the scaled-up existing NTP pillars, this will mean that from 2021-22 we will vastly expand the reach of tutoring. This will help ensure more disadvantaged pupils benefit from tuition support.

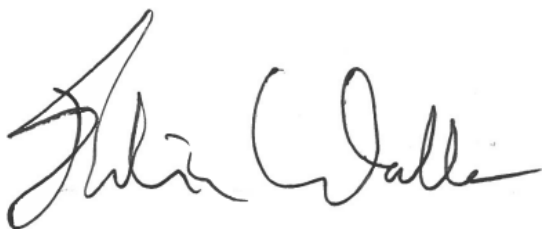
There is extensive evidence that tutoring is one of the most effective ways to accelerate pupil progress. In order to maximise the impact of tutoring and to support schools, the EEF has provided a guide on how to get the best out of tutoring, available at: [tinyurl.com/Y4Jv2Glr](https://www.tinyurl.com/Y4Jv2Glr).

We are also investing £253 million to help provide 500,000 teacher training opportunities, which includes £69 million to extend the rollout of the Early Career Framework reforms and £184 million for middle and late-career National Professional Qualifications. Additionally, we are providing £153 million for training for early years staff to support the educational development of the very youngest children.

We expect that most students will have continued to progress into higher education or employment. However, some may have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. In such cases, the school or college may have considered that it was their best option to repeat a term or a year. To ensure that those with the least time left did not miss out, the Government offered additional funding for students in their final year of 16 to 19 education, for the most part Year 13 or an equivalent year, to repeat a year where they felt they had been particularly badly affected by the pandemic. Schools and colleges will be funded by the Department to help accommodate the additional student numbers.

We are committed to working with parents, teachers and schools to develop a long term plan that ensures pupils are not further disadvantaged by the disruption to their education and are able to catch up. The next stage will include a review of time spent in school and college and the impact this could have on helping children and young people to catch up. It will also include a review of the evidence on extending the school and college day. The findings of the review will be set out later in the year to inform the spending review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Swales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.