

Barriers to educational achievement

Some of the **main issues** currently faced by our eligible pupils - include:

- poor 'starting points' – a significant number of pupils in Foundation Stage join us well below expected levels;
- low parent/ carer engagement with school;
- poor attendance, including 'lateness';
- no educational support at home, incl access to books and/ or equipment, materials, etc
- low parent/ carer aspiration

We recognise that these 'barriers' can often be the result of one or a combination of, the following **'risk' factors**:

- parent/ carer mental ill health;
- high levels of income deprivation;
- unemployment;
- living in areas with high levels of crime;
- experiencing domestic violence within the family home;
- substance abuse within the family unit.

(All of the above are factors impacting on well-being and educational engagement within our catchment area and context)

SCHOOL STRATEGIES

*Based upon individual needs (and circumstances), **we may employ one or more, of the following**:*

- provide boosters, small group work, and 1:1 support (as appropriate) for pupils - with an experienced teacher, focussing on addressing identified/ assessed gaps in learning;
- provide additional teaching and learning opportunities for pupils through trained LSAs and/or external agencies, to help them make improved progress and to raise their standards of achievement;
- as identified, specific training/ CPD for staff – e.g. 'Read, write, inc' (Phonics);
- acquire resources/ materials for pupils entitled to PP funding, aimed at raising standards, particularly in reading and mathematics;
- Therapeutic support;
- secure additional support of the school's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to address inadequate attendance and persistent absenteeism;
- provide access to 'breakfast' and 'after-school' clubs to provide opportunities for social interaction and increase health and well-being;
- provide access to a range of enrichment activities – incl subsidised or fully-funded educational visits and residential trips to further enrich pupils' experiences;
- support parents with the purchase of school uniform