

## Review of PPG Spending 2019-2020

Ordinarily, one of the measures of this spending review would be to evaluate children's progress and standards of attainment. In the absence of formal data, this has not been possible; however, progress meetings that occurred in the first half of the year showed clear evidence that TA support was having a positive impact on children achieving their full potential across all areas of the curriculum.



Prior to COVID restrictions being imposed, many of our PP pupils attended after school activities and trips at no cost to their family. The Out and About Club managed to complete several trips before lockdown, allowing children from vulnerable families to participate in rich experiences that deepened cultural capital. A Y5 child explained: "I love our Saturday trips as I go to places I've never been before. I've never been to a farm and I've never stroked a pig - her hair feels so rough and she makes a funny noise!"

Another child said how much they enjoyed visiting the theatre to watch Tom Gates on stage: "I loved the special effects, especially when the backgrounds changed as the characters were walking through. I'd like to do that when I'm older - or perhaps be an actor". Although not easily measurable, the positive impact of providing children (particularly young carers) the time, space and opportunity to enjoy first hand experiences has been particularly rewarding. Confidence, resilience, perseverance and curiosity have all been sparked by the array of activities. We have been able to offer the children and the benefits in social and emotional well-being have been clearly witnessed.



We were also able to continue our 'World of Work' programme and held a successful workshop with people from different professions calling to talk about their jobs and their journey to the career of their choice. This had a positive impact both on raising aspirations within our pupils and opening their eyes to the scope of jobs available within the workplace: "I've never met an author before. I've now read all of her books and would like to illustrate books one day" (Y4 child).



Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) benefits are essential to the well-being of a child and it is in this area that the PP funding has been particularly useful. COVID-19 brought unique concerns and difficulties for many of our children and PPG monies were used to offer emotional support both during and after lockdown. Our two

ELSA trained members of staff were a great asset to the school and were able to assist those pupils who found the pandemic particularly traumatic. At Holy Cross we are acutely aware of the importance of children from vulnerable families attending school and as soon as we were able, all children from vulnerable families were invited to attend school throughout the lockdown periods and the



half term holidays. The school kitchen remained open throughout, ensuring pupils had access to a breakfast and cooked lunch, and PPG funding also allowed us to help those children who remained at home – including: supplying sports equipment for children to use at home; provision of pencils, paper etc. to those children that needed them; and the

introduction of online programmes to aid remote learning.