



Kensington Queensmill

Diminishing the Difference Report – 2021/22

Kensington Queensmill Context

Kensington Queensmill is a new specialist provision for young people aged 5-19 with a diagnosis of autism and/or significant learning difficulty. The school opened its purpose-built building on Barlby Road, North Kensington, on 1st September 2021.

Currently the school has 59 young people on role, from EYFS to Post-16, and will grow to its capacity of 80 in September 2022.

Due to the infancy of the school sports and pupil premium funding has not been fully received until late-April 2022, leaving limited time for the full allocation of these funds in the academic year 21/22. This is outlined in the school's pupil premium statement where much of the focus is on developing cultural capital and creating opportunities for students to engage in cultural experiences they are typically denied owing to their impairment.

Whole School Progress 2021-22

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and periodic closure of schools and society across the country from mid-March 2020 it is challenging to accurately assess learning data and progression. This is reflected in the data which indicates averages more closely aligned to the 'secure' range rather than 'QM secure'. This would suggest that given the condensed time-frames students were able to progress with the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and were they to have access to a typical term many would have mastered these.

Pupil Premium Progress

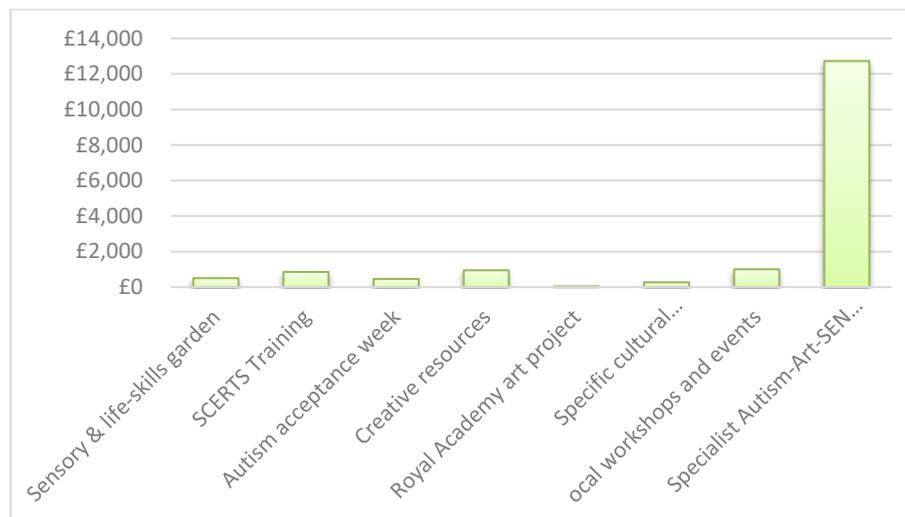
The average rate of progress for pupil premium students was broadly in line with the rest of the school, as would be expected in a specialist school environment. It is hugely encouraging that this vulnerable group within the school population are making excellent progress with learning at a level in line with what was outlined as expected.

Pupil Premium Income 2021/22 - £16,784

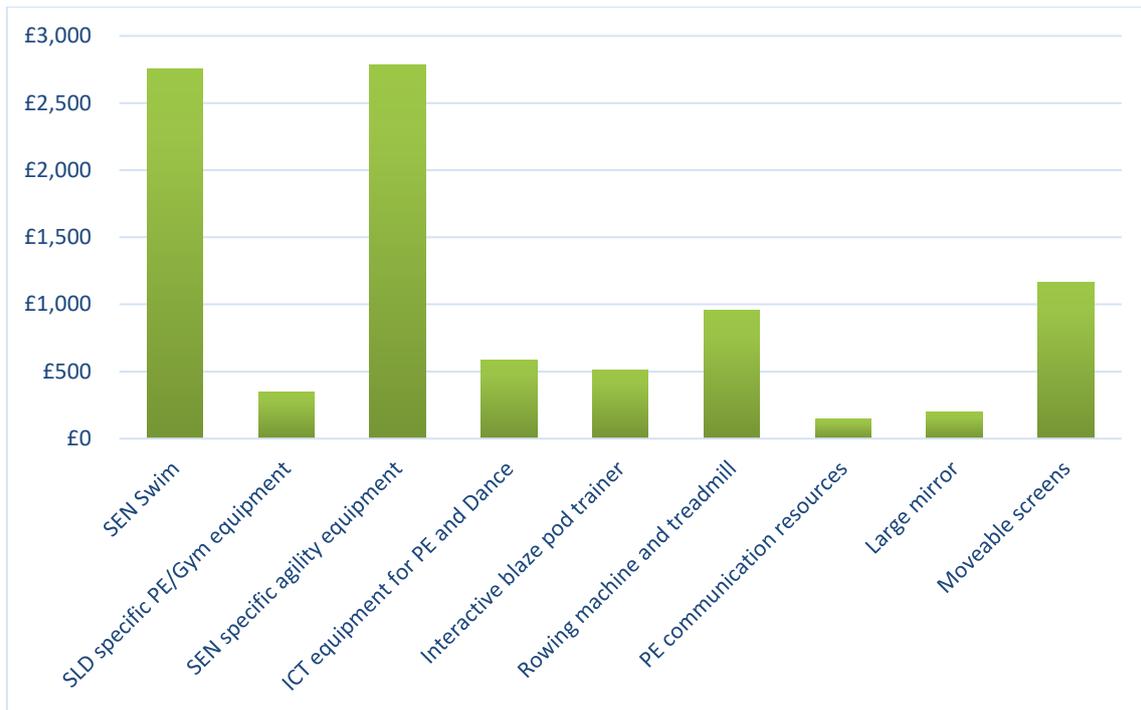
Sports Premium Income 2021/22 - £9,462

Pupil Premium Expenditure 2021-22

	Item	Cost
Amount Received		£16,784
1	Sensory & life-skills garden	£500
2	SCERTS Training	£852
3	Autism acceptance week (delivered in partnership with Barlby Primary School)	£457
4	Creative resources	£944
5	Royal Academy art project	£39
6	Specific cultural workshops/events	£268
7	Predicted – local workshops and events	£1000
8	Specialist Autism-Art-SEN teacher salary (part-funded)	£12,724
Total		£15,784
Current underspend		£1000


Sports Premium Expenditure 2021-22

	Item	Cost
Amount Received		£9,462
1	SEN Swim (autism/disability specific swimming) for those outside of KS2 cohort	£2,757
2	SLD specific PE/Gym equipment	£345
3	SEN specific agility equipment	£2,785
4	ICT equipment for PE and Dance (including TACPAC and dance therapy)	£588
5	Interactive blaze pod trainer	£514
6	Rowing machine and treadmill	£960
7	Autism specific PE communication resources	£148
8	Large mirror	£197
9	Moveable screens	£1,166
Total		£9,462
Current underspend		None



Additional strategies offered 2021-22

- Provision of a family support worker
- As part of the blended learning offer (and in response to additional Covid-19 safeguarding responses) teachers have been contacting families weekly to check-in and offer additional support where appropriate and viable
- Due to the specialist nature of the school many young people have been able to attend throughout the pandemic and closures. Many of those who have attended full and part-time have been those identified as the most vulnerable and fall under the designation of 'pupil premium'

Barriers faced by pupil premium students

- Limited language and restricted vocabulary
- Poor attendance
- Mobility – students have moved between many different schools
- Family difficulties
- Medical conditions
- Lack of sleep
- Poor nutrition
- Poverty
- Lack of family engagement with learning
- Low aspirations
- Low expectations
- Narrow range of opportunities and experiences outside of school
- Lack of role models
- Lack of self-confidence and self-esteem
- Poor social skills



It should be noted that whilst these are recognised barriers faced nationally by pupil premium students that all students who attend Queensmill have a diagnosis of autism. This is defined below as resulting in:

Persistent deficits in social communication and social integration across contexts

Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities, including hyper or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment

Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period

Symptoms must cause clinically significant impairment in social occupation, or other important areas of current functioning

(DSM-5, 2013, pg. 50)

From these criteria it is clear that many of the barriers faced by pupil premium students may be due to the deprivation they encounter at home but equally due to the impact of their autism on their ability to self-regulate, understand the world and function on a daily basis.

Andy Nowak – May 2022