



William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School

182 Knock Road, Dervock,

Ballymoney. BT53 8BB

Tel: 02820741585 Email: [jphilpott256@c2kni.net](mailto:jphilpott256@c2kni.net)

Website: [www.wmpms.org.uk](http://www.wmpms.org.uk)



### **ENGAGE PROGRAMME**

Dear Parent,

The Department of Education have recently launched the Engage Programme. The overall aim of this programme as outlined by the Department is:

*“To limit any long-term adverse impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on educational standards by supporting pupil’s learning and engagement on their return to school through provision of high quality one to one, small group or team teaching support in every school in Northern Ireland.”*

Given the unique circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, ALL primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland have received various levels of funding through this programme to provide additional teaching resources.

In our school setting this will mean that Mrs Crowe, our learning Support Teacher, will work 5 days per week, Monday – Friday instead of her normal 3 days per week. This will enable us to enhance our Learning Support provision and allow us to target a greater number of children who have been identified as requiring additional learning support in these challenging days.

The Education Endowment Foundation says that there is extensive evidence of the positive impact of high quality one to one and small group teaching as a support strategy for learning, particularly after a period of missed schooling. The evidence also states that support delivered by qualified teachers is likely to have the highest impact.

The programme has been designed to complement and enhance the existing work of schools, and so, by extending Mrs Crowe’s contractual hours it means that we can further embed and enhance the Learning Support Programme that we are already very fortunate to have in place in school.

Teacher's professional judgement and assessment outcomes have been used to identify children who would benefit most from the programme and an initial timetable of support has been drawn up. However, I would stress that the situation is fluid, and teachers will be continuing to regularly assess children and identifying their individual learning needs. The programme will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis and will be flexible, allowing different children to move on and off the programme as required.

We are extremely grateful for this funding and have worked hard over the last number of weeks to ensure that we have developed a programme that will impact positively on pupil attitudes and dispositions to learning, as well as their progress in learning. At present the funding is due to last until March 2021, however, a further bid has been made to the Education Minister to secure funding until end June 2021, and although no definite answer has been given, we are hopeful that this additional funding can be secured.

You, as parents, will be informed if we feel that any point your child would benefit from the support offered within this programme.

If you have any further questions or queries about the Engage Programme, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

J Philpott (Principal)