



The Elliot Foundation
Annual Report to Parents and Carers
2021





Childs Hill Primary School
At Childs Hill learning is like a mirror. We get the best results when we are smiling.



Griffin Primary School
We love our Inside Out days and learning in our new Forest in the City - it's all enormous fun!



Hillingdon Primary School
Learn from the past, prepare for the future, live in the present!

Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

'This year has been tough for everyone, but through these times our school and the Elliot Foundation have pulled together to make learning accessible for all.

The education we expect means that we will be confident and we will learn about all subjects, not just Maths and English. We will be creative writers and good mathematicians, great scientists, amazing artists and history lovers. We will love what we do and we know that we can make a difference to the world.

The main reason that we are all striving in our learning is because we know that the Elliot Foundation cares about what we do. We are proud to be part of an organisation that puts children's well-being before anything else.

We are learning to be positive members of a wider society by being taught that bullying is mean and not right to do, that it doesn't matter if we are different and learning that children have a right to make a positive difference in the world.

This piece was collaboratively written by:

Lewis Gray from Ramsey Junior School and Malk and Mariem Warda from Tiverton Academy



Who are we?

The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust is an educational charity established to give children every opportunity for a brighter future. Our motto, 'Where children believe they can because teachers know they can' underpins our every action.

We are a community of 28 thriving primary schools in the West Midlands, London and East Anglia, serving almost 11,500 children and their families. We are proud of our diverse network and we believe that raising expectations for all children and teachers is at the heart of a successful and inclusive society.



Eyrescroft Primary

Children from Eyrescroft Primary made Christmas packages for local care home residents including a handwritten letter, a portrait, a Christmas cracker joke and a beautifully decorated envelope!



Croft Academy

Little did we know back in February 2020 how the year would unfold. Here are children at Croft enjoying the pancake day races and helping to raise funds for our school.





What do we do?

We help children to discover themselves and aspire beyond any limitations that their context might appear to place upon them. We help them understand that they can be 'heroes of their own lives', building the foundations for a healthy and successful future.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of our other charitable objectives, which include the relief of poverty, hunger and unemployment.

How is it going?

This has been a very different year for the schools in the Elliot Foundation. The COVID-19 pandemic has thoroughly disrupted the education system.

As a result our schools prioritised the safety and wellbeing of their children and communities. We asked our families how they felt it was going. Here are some comments below:

"The Hyde School provides a very positive learning environment for children to learn and for staff to work. There is a real sense of joy and love in the school, everyone feels valued and that their contribution counts!"

"From the bottom of my heart thank you, it means a lot to know my daughter is safe, secure and happy while we work through this awful time. I appreciate you all."

"Thank you so much for the excellent home learning package during these difficult times. It can't be easy for teachers to juggle in class learning as well as remote learning. We truly appreciate it."
(Hillingdon Primary School)

"The work they are providing online is excellent and the support and engagement from staff is exemplary. Communication out to parent's is frequent and timely and always easy to understand. I honestly cannot express how easy they have made it for us to homeschool during this time. They are absolutely fantastic and I felt it was important to that this was recognised."
(Shirestone Academy)

"The staff at Millfield Primary School were quick to get our children back to school and have put forth tremendous effort to ensure their health and safety. I cannot thank them enough for taking that stress off of our shoulders so we can focus on our work."
(Millfield Primary School)

Quality of education

Ofsted is an independent government agency which is responsible for inspecting the quality of education provided in all state funded schools. By law, every school is required to publish their own reports and access to these are available on the Ofsted website¹.

Routine inspections by Ofsted were severely affected by the pandemic. Graded inspections were suspended on March 17th 2020 and are yet to be reintroduced. To relieve the additional burden on schools, SATs were cancelled this year so that the focus could be directed to welcoming children back into the classroom.

As a result only two schools in the Trust were inspected in the last year, Ramsey Spinning Infants and Ramsey Juniors, and both were found to remain 'Good'. Ramnoth Junior in Wisbech had a monitoring inspection in March which found the school and the Trust to be taking 'effective action' following a special measures judgement in 2019.

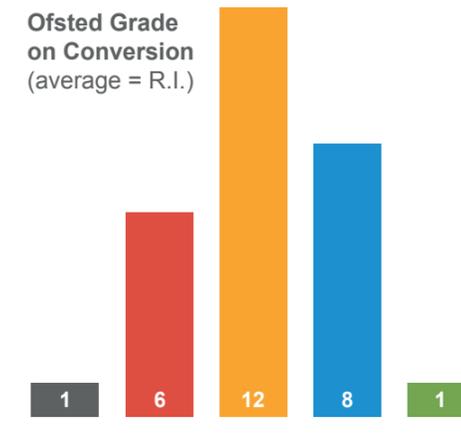
At the time of writing three quarters of the schools in the Elliot Foundation are judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding', compared to the one third that held these grades at the point they joined the Trust. Although COVID-19 has significantly interrupted education in all schools, we are confident that we can maintain this trajectory of improvement and help all of our children recover rapidly.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisation/ofsted>



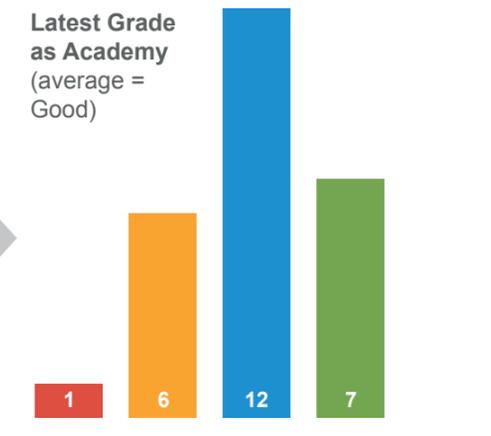
Then...

Ofsted Grade on Conversion (average = R.I.)



Now...

Latest Grade as Academy (average = Good)



- New School (no previous grade)
- Inadequate
- R.I.
- Good
- Outstanding

Average improvement across all Elliot Foundation academies after 41 inspections over 9 years is 1 Ofsted grade

Elliot Foundation Schools inspected by Ofsted in 2020	School grade on joining the Elliot Foundation	Latest Ofsted grade	Uplift
Ramsey Spinning Infants	Good	Good	-
Ramsey Junior	Good	Good	-
Average of all schools joining Elliot since 2012	Below R.I.	Good	+1

Virtual School

This year saw the creation of the Elliot Foundation Virtual School. We have created a safe and engaging environment in which our dedicated teachers support pupils to learn whilst at home. Every single pupil at the Elliot Foundation is a student of our Virtual School.

Remote learning takes various forms and it is not restricted to 'live lessons', nor are these the gold standard of education. The quality of remote learning is measured by the progress made by all children. Our teachers embraced the use of technology and made innovative use of online tools to create sequences of lessons across all areas of the curriculum to ensure that children continue to enjoy learning.

They use platforms such as Google Classroom and Tapestry in an engaging and interactive way to provide daily reading, writing, maths and foundation subjects as well as physical fitness challenges and well-being support. Children who need additional help, such as those with SEND, have additional resources which are personalised for their needs as well as one-to-one and small group feedback.



Claremont Primary School
At Claremont we seek out fun, dreams and opportunities... together! At Claremont, life is fun, chase it!



Westwood Primary School
We asked our children to summarise Westwood. One response was, "bustling with happiness and with people who care for you!"

Teachers and support staff have been exceptionally proactive in their support of any queries. For example, holding socially distanced home learning feedback sessions on site at Kings Rise Academy and encouraging children to create their own video diaries at John Locke Academy.

We have been delighted to see all of the videos and photos which parents have shared with us. This has included musical challenges at Highlees Primary School, building home reading zones at Billesley Primary School and some special virtual Christmas showcases at Woods Bank Academy and Pinkwell Primary School.

Billesley has been selected by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) as one of only 32 Research Schools in the country. This provides a platform to share their work and to support colleagues in other schools with evidence-led practice. They are looking forward to building on existing partnerships, establishing new ones and developing opportunities for collaboration that advance outcomes for all children.



Broader educational experience

In a year like no other, our schools rose to the challenges presented by COVID-19. From the move to online learning, community initiatives and unbound creativity, the absence of normal schooling has required a ceaseless commitment of our academies to nurture every child's personal development.

In London, Griffin Primary School worked with the community to submit designs to a local wood carver for a new storytelling chair. The result was a beautiful communal creation, carved from cut down trees from the local estate, which will take pride of place in the Forest in the City Garden. Students at John Locke Academy created a touching window display in memory of Captain Sir Thomas Moore and his courageous fundraising efforts this year. Executive Head at Greenside & Griffin Primary, Karen Bastick-Styles, was inspired during lockdown 1.0 by a beautiful poem, 'The Rime of The Ancient Mariner' and students and staff across the Trust collaborated to retell the story in pictures and words.

In Sandwell, children from George Betts Primary Academy took part in the National Gallery's, 'Take One Picture Project'. The 2020 exhibition asked pupils to respond to the painting, 'Men of the Docks' by George Bellows and they produced a powerful study of potholes and banners, which was displayed in the National Gallery.

In Cambridgeshire, Westwood Primary School held a 'Grab a Bag' uniform day, where parents could donate unwanted uniforms to create an exchange event for those in need. This initiative was so well received, that it was developed into a Christmas community event in which unused toys and activities were shared. The result was many happy children and a thriving community spirit. Cavalry Primary School united the school community with a touching musical performance of 'Memories' in honour of Geri Croke, a well known figure amongst the students.



If you would like to see more of our children's artistic works please follow us on:

 @theelliotfoundation

 facebook.com/ElliotFoundation

 @ElliotFndtn

Supporting the community

The Covid pandemic has highlighted the extreme vulnerability of several sections of society. Over the 9 months following the outbreak of the pandemic, 14% of UK families with children experienced a heightened sense of food insecurity.²

To respond to this national crisis, in partnership with a number of charities including Rackets Cubed, FareShare and In Kind Direct, we developed a “Community Box” programme to support families in need of extra assistance. The programme, which runs in 9 schools already, will be expanded to all of our schools by the end of this academic year.

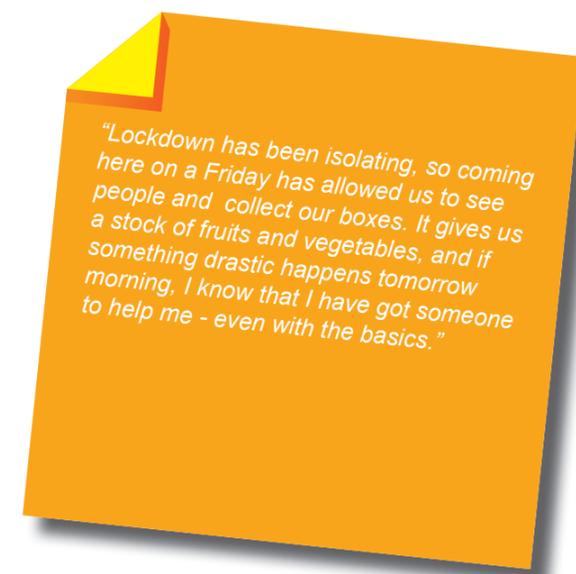
These weekly boxes are offered to families who need a little extra help and are made up of surplus food sourced from charities like FareShare and City Harvest, hygiene products from In Kind Direct together with donations from local businesses. School staff and parents volunteer with the packing and delivering of boxes to scores of families in need. As of November 2020, the scheme has provided over 300 families per week with essential support.

² <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/new-food-foundation-data-sept-2020/>



The project was picked up by the BBC, and Parkfield Primary had a well deserved moment of fame as they featured in a segment on BBC1's Morning Live in November!

The impact of these community boxes has been significant, as one parent at Parkfield Primary stated:



The community spirit has never faltered and we could not be more proud of the efforts that have been made to extend this campaign across all schools within our network. This campaign has embodied the values of the Elliot Foundation.

Inclusivity

We are proud of all our children and the rich and varied experiences they bring to our schools; one third are supported through the pupil premium grant, almost half have English as an additional language and 15% have a special educational need. What this means is that all children, irrespective of their background, are learning in environments which truly reflect the world in which we live.

Lockdown has not been easy for many families and so we are grateful to the adults in our schools who have gone above and beyond to ensure no child misses out. Many of our schools have provided resource packs with stationery for children to use at home or personalised videos for children with complex needs. All of our schools have loaned chromebooks to enable children without devices to access their learning and to date we have issued 1,748 in total.



In online lessons, teachers include audio clips and video instructions so that pupils are able to access more of their remote learning independently, which particularly helps working parents and carers.

All schools have tried to meet the needs of children who have found remote learning particularly challenging but here are a few specific examples:

- A parent of a Year 4 pupil with an EHCP was finding it difficult to help their child learn and look after their baby. The pupil was able to complete the work but they were unable to read the instructions which was what the parent had to do. By including audio clips of all information and instruction the pupil was able to access more of the remote learning independently and this helped mum greatly.
- At one school where a child needed a lot of support with gross motor skills, the school loaned the family a trike and helmet so that he could continue to develop strength, stamina and skills.
- At another school a child in Year 1 was struggling to engage with his online learning but his teacher knew that he enjoyed superheroes and robots. His teacher created a 'Transformer' challenge for him where he had to save Bumble Bee's voice box. This boosted his confidence and he communicated in role with his teacher who acted as Optimus Prime!



Elm Road Primary School
Helping the community by raising £400 to spend on stock for the local food bank.

How much does it cost and who pays?

The Elliot Foundation is almost entirely funded from public money.

- Last year our total income was £69.2m
- 81% of this was spent on staff costs
- The Trust has £7.0m of reserves
 - We expect to use a significant proportion of these reserves over the coming three years as costs increase and efforts to support children and families through the consequences of the pandemic.
- If you want to know more about our finances our annual Trustees' report and full accounts can be found on our website
- You can also find comparative information on the government's Schools Financial

Benchmarking Site

<https://elliottfoundation.co.uk/resources/finance-policies>

<https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/>

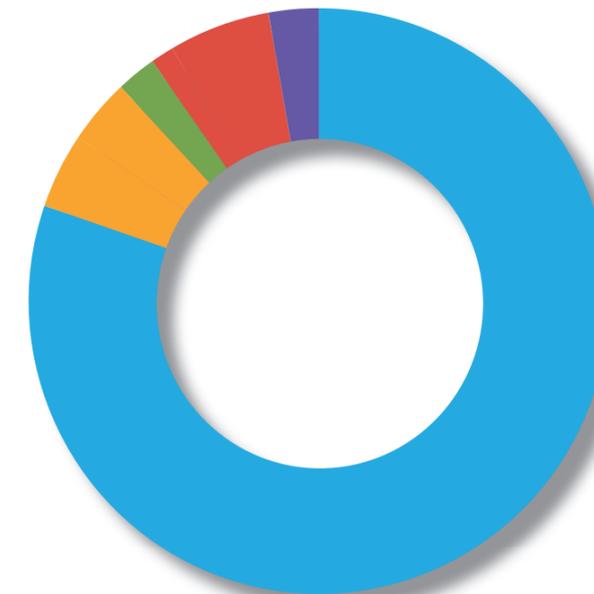


The Hyde School

Children from the Hyde School celebrating their recent Artsmark Platinum Award. Artsmark praised the school's commitment to the Arts and how they are embedded throughout the curriculum. Artsmark highlighted how the engagement of children's decisions about what and how they learn makes a significant difference to learning.



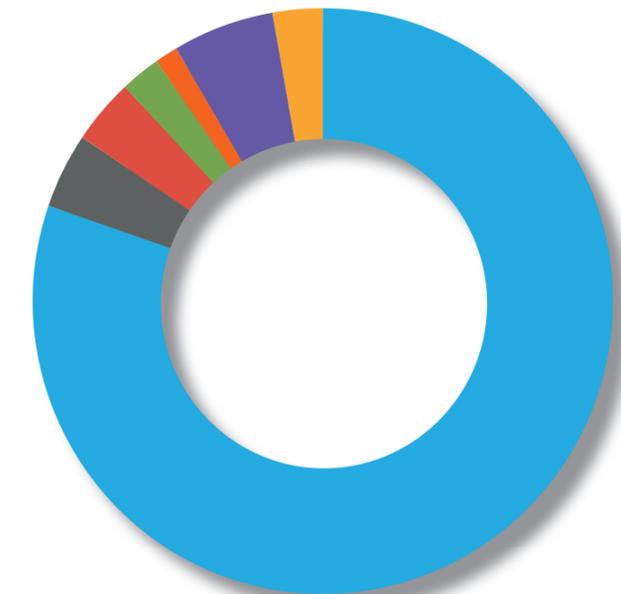
Income



- Central Government funding - £55.8m
- Other funding - £2.2m
- Local authority funding (e.g. nurseries and SEN provision) - £5.8m
- Capital funding - £1.6m
- Amount recognising the value of Childs Hill joining the Trust - £3.8m

Total income: £69.2m

Expenditure



- Costs of employing staff - £56.1m
- Costs of maintaining school buildings - £2.7m
- Catering costs - £1.9m
- Educational supplies - £1.4m
- ICT - £1.0m
- Other - £3.9m
- Depreciation - £3.0m

Total expenditure: £70.0m

How do you think we are doing?

If there is anything you think we are doing well or could do better please get in touch

@ info@elliotfoundation.co.uk

facebook.com/ElliotFoundation

@ElliotFndtn

@theelliotfoundation



Ramsey Spinning Infant School
It's amazing the things you can discover through play. Double five makes ten!





Kings Rise Academy
 At our weakest we are strong, at our proudest we are humble... we are Kings Rise for You, Me, Us!



Nene and Ramnoth School
 Children from Nene and Ramnoth enjoy exploring the new pond in our field and being able to investigate.





Shireland Hall Primary
 Here at SHP, we are all
 successful learners, confident
 individuals and responsible
 citizens!



Chandos Primary School
 Learning at home, especially
 with a large family, can be tricky
 but the children at Chandos
 make it look easy!



www.elliottfoundation.co.uk

