

## Why do children and families at Roundhill need extra resources?

I have been HT at Roundhill Primary for nearly 13 years and in that time I have come to understand well both the scale and depth of the learning needs of our school community. We have a higher than local and national average of children with special educational needs (25%) and we consistently have the highest level of social care needs within BANES Primary schools. During my work with our children and families the staff and governors have worked hard to develop resources to counter the barriers to learning which a significant number of our children face.

I'd like to tell you about 9 year old, Michael – he was on a CP Plan for 2 years due to concerns about domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse and parental separation. This affected his learning but, more worryingly, his fear that the world was not a safe place, led to triggering of very harmful behaviour, putting himself and others at risk on a daily basis. Part of his support plan was dramatherapy and to build for him a safe space that he could retreat to when he felt anxious to avoid the harmful behaviour. He also needed a key worker to build a secure attachment with to support his learning.

Michael was able to attend his Child Protection meeting with the dramatherapist, his parents, our Family Worker and a Social Worker he had not met before. He was able to tell his mother that hearing her shout and fight with her partner made him very scared and he would feel guilty and worried about her when he left her to come to school. This meant when something little happened at school he would get very angry and do things that weren't safe. When asked if there was anything else he would like to say to his family he told each of them that he loved them. He returned to class and, although his teacher was concerned that he would find the meeting stressful and return agitated, he was very calm and settled to his work. His contribution had a big impact on his parents and the social worker said she had never experienced a child contribute to their child protection meeting so effectively.

At Roundhill there are 40 more children like Michael experiencing 4 or more of what are termed Adverse Childhood Experiences. These include domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health issues, prison, emotional abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse.

Research has shown that children with 4 or more ACEs are at significant risk:

- 3 x more likely to experience academic failure
- 6 x more likely to have behavioural problems
- 5 x more likely to have attendance problems.
- 5x more likely to have depression
- 12 x more at risk of suicide
- 11 x more likely to use intravenous drugs
- **Likely to die 10 years earlier, 6 or more ACEs likely die 20 years earlier**

We use Pupil Premium funding to ensure that children get the most effective and high quality learning experiences and TA support and we use any additional funding to provide therapeutic support to children in such circumstances including dramatherapy, school based counselling (P2B), sports mentoring and family worker support. This provision ensures that our children and families get the support that gives them the resilience to overcome the barriers they face.

This is not a cost it is an investment in the futures of our most vulnerable children and I would urge you to consider any way in which you can support funding for BANES' most vulnerable pupils.