

**Reducing Inequalities in Schools/Affordable School Strategy**

**Strategy Outline**

The Affordable Schools Strategy is a fully resourced, proactive programme which supports schools develop whole school, inclusive practice and address challenges such as pupil attendance, behaviour, attainment, health and wellbeing. The strategy was developed in the academic year 2022/23 through a collaborative process with Wiltshire schools (5 secondary and 6 primary crossing both the LA maintained and MAT sector). The Affordable Schools Strategy primarily aims to support schools enhance their vision, culture and leadership by:

- adopting a highly inclusive strategy which ensures all pupils have the opportunity to participate, learn and thrive
- receiving a full range of resources to support delivery including Affordable Schools Strategy and Toolkit, implementation plans, surveys (staff, parent, pupils), whole school training materials, website templates and content, wealth of ideas and support for development areas, resources and signposting
- understanding strategic improvement links to school vision, culture and values, SIAMS, Pupil Premium strategy and statement, key policy links and support, Healthy Schools, health and wellbeing
- being eligible to apply for an incremental Affordable Schools Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold) to evidence successful practice and whole school commitment

The Affordable Schools Strategy was launched at the Disadvantaged Learners Conference in September 2023 and repeated in September 2024. To date, 103 schools have attended training to adopt the strategy and given a feedback score of 4.89 out of 5.0 for impact.

A comprehensive toolkit and series of termly network meetings has been available to all schools adopting the strategy to support development of practice. 20 schools signed up to attend the termly 2023/24 network meetings with a feedback score of 5/5.

The Affordable Schools Strategy has gained national recognition being described by Marc Rowland (foremost national expert on the effective use of Pupil Premium and improving outcomes for disadvantaged learners, author, Government Advisor, EEF) saying, '*The Affordable Schools programme provides a rigorous, well-planned framework and implementation resources to ensure schools are equitable. The team that has developed the programme are values led, rooted in the realities of school life. It is a brilliant programme that helps pupils and practitioners to thrive together.*'

Wiltshire were invited to attend the One Cornwall Attendance Conference (October 2023) to share the principles and activities of the Affordable Schools Strategy at the launch of their attendance project. The strategy has meaningfully connected with organisations such as the team at the Devizes District Foodbank (with their

Affordable Uniform Pledge), been discussed with Hampshire County Council who are keen to learn from our Affordable Schools approach and widely shared across our own service areas, such as with Public Health.

Participating schools are eligible to apply for an Affordable Schools Award (Bronze, Silver and Gold) which is now open for the first round of school applications and hosted on the same platform as Wiltshire Healthy Schools Award and Young Carers Award.

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