

Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) Statement 2026-2027

Inclusive Mainstream Fund Statement

At the City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College, we are committed to ensuring that every child can achieve and thrive within an inclusive educational environment. We welcome the Department for Education's Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF), which has been introduced from 2026–2027 to support mainstream schools in strengthening inclusive practice and meeting the needs of all learners, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The fund forms part of the government's wider ambition to create an education system that is "inclusive by design", enabling schools to provide early support, remove barriers to learning and improve outcomes for all pupils.

Our Principles

The Inclusive Mainstream Fund will be used to support our ongoing commitment to:

- Deliver high-quality teaching that meets the needs of all learners.
- Identify and respond to additional needs at the earliest opportunity.
- Anticipate and remove barriers to learning, participation, attendance and achievement.
- Promote belonging, wellbeing and positive relationships.
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies.
- Prepare pupils for successful transitions and future independence.

How we intend to use IMF Funding

In line with Department for Education guidance, funding may be used to support developments across the following areas:

1. Ambitious Leadership and Inclusive Practice
2. Early Identification and Inclusive Practice
3. High-Quality Teaching for All
4. Personal Development and Enrichment
5. Attendance, Belonging and Positive Behaviour
6. Partnership Working
7. Inclusive Learning Environments

Measuring the Impact

The impact of IMF-funded activity will be evaluated through:

- Pupils' progress and attainment.
- Attendance and engagement.
- Participation in school life and enrichment opportunities.
- Reduction in barriers to learning.
- Feedback from pupils, families and staff.
- Improved outcomes for pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups.

Accountability

The City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College, will ensure that IMF funding is used in accordance with Department for Education guidance and that spending decisions are aligned with identified pupil needs and the academy's inclusion priorities. The impact of funded initiatives will be reviewed regularly by academy leaders and governors as part of our wider commitment to continuous improvement and inclusive excellence.