

# Capital Investment Funding

## What are we making better?

On the 4th March 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced capital allocations specifically for capital investment in provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability. Swindon was allocated £977,620 over three years from April 2018. The funding could be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25. Before receiving the funding, Swindon were required to 'Consult with parents and carers of children with SEN and disabilities and young people with SEN and disabilities'.

## What has been the Impact?

In recognising the comparatively low level of the SEND Capital Investment Fund the Local Authority invested in as many schemes as possible that meet the priorities to enable a greater proportion of children with SEND to benefit from this fund. Therefore, the Local Authority opened a bidding round for match funded projects in order to increase the overall level of investment in SEND provision, but also meet as wide a range of needs as possible. The Local Authority received a huge amount of interest for the SEND Capital Investment Funding scheme. Within the bids we received in, we had a variety of different projects from Hoist to Well-being centres - Many of the projects were small scale projects.

## What have we done?

Young people were consulted around the allocation of the SEND Capital Investment Funding in January 2020. Young People felt that smaller projects would be better, as this meant more settings (and in turn) young people would benefit from the funding.

## What has been the evidence?

**Project—Purchase laptops, iPads and software to enable SEND pupils to be more independent and develop their writing skills across the curriculum.**

Feedback - Children's confidence has increased and their self-esteem has been raised. This has enabled them to take risks and take a more active role in their own and others' learning. The equipment is in constant use across the school and the evidence can be seen in the progress made in individuals' writing. There has also been a positive impact for the children with EAL who have been enabled to access the curriculum and vocabulary more effectively.

**Project - To create a sensory room within the Nursery Provision.**

Feedback- The impact of the sensory room will be far greater in the future, when we are able to mix bubbles again and other children in the school can make use of it. Many of our pupils with SEND will benefit from being able to use this space for sensory breaks. It will also help us to achieve the outcomes set out in EHCPs and Individual provision Maps.

**Project - Creation of a nurture room. .**

School feedback- The Nurture room has been a great success. We now have resources in place to support children so they are happy and ready to learn. Interventions using this resource have been monitored and we have seen a positive impact on the children using it. We achieved the Mental Health Award last year as a result of having this resource and hope to achieve the bronze healthy schools award which will focus on supporting the children's mental health.