

## Study Support Case Study – Breakfast Maths Club

Presented by Bruce Nicholson

### Highfield Community Primary School

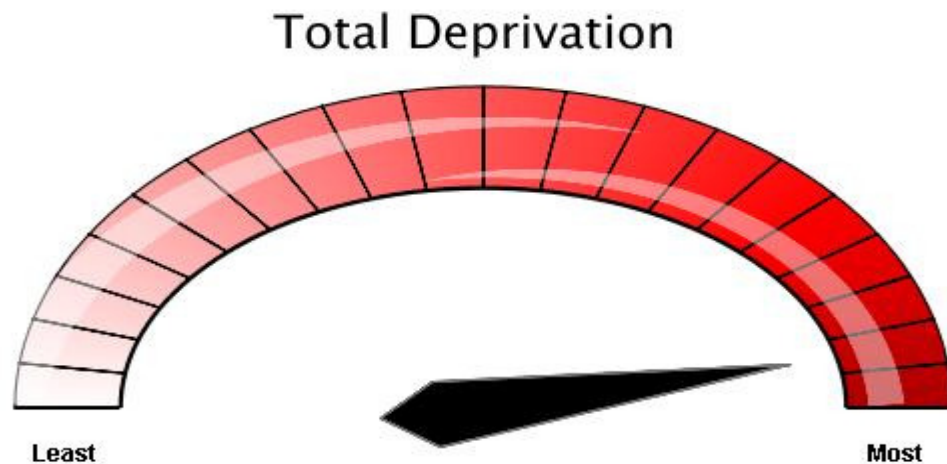
#### **Context:**

The £1000 funding was secured by the Extended Services Team and was used to develop a mathematics breakfast club. Raising standards in mathematics across the school and at the end of KS2 is one of the main priorities identified in the school improvement plan.

#### **Background:**

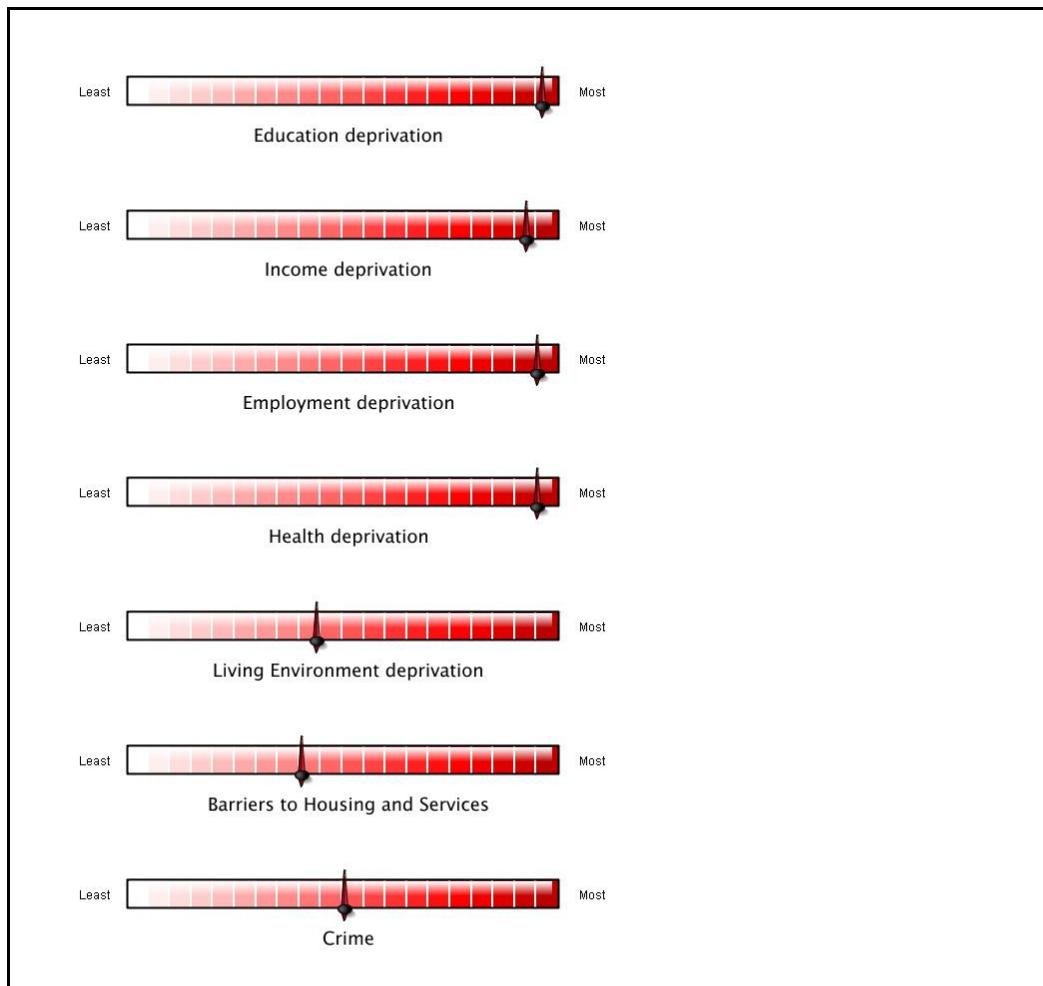
Highfield Community Primary School delivers the full core offer on a site that includes a Children's Centre, Daycare and Council Customer Service Centre. Children enter our foundation stage well below national and local averages. Highfield is situated in one of the most deprived areas of the country. Levels of economic activity are low, with 34% of adults claiming a key benefit compared with 14% nationally. Of those in work, 25% are defined as being in 'elementary occupations', the national figure being just 12%. (ONS – 2001 census information for super output area 012B)

There are few facilities and the overall level of deprivation is graphically illustrated by the Office of National Statistics neighbourhood summary:



Children and young people in the area face a multitude of challenges –many from the resident population inherit patterns of worklessness stretching back over several generations. Parents do not see the value of education and children get little family support, which is reflected in the educational attainment at both primary and secondary level. There are a high number of single parents and many families, of all descriptions, struggle to cope both financially and functionally. Incomes are low – 45% of children at the school receive free school meals.

Office of National Statistics: summary at super output area:



### Activity and Objectives

The funding was used to support and develop a numeracy based breakfast club. The club ran for five mornings per week between 8am and 9am. This activity was selected for a range of reasons. Firstly, many of our children come to school without a proper breakfast. The breakfast club was set up to give our children a good start to the day and prepare them for learning. At the end of KS2 English results are much higher than mathematics results and this informed the need to boost our current Year 6 children who were not meeting their Fischer Family Trust targets.

As well as boosting numeracy capability the club was used to improve the self confidence of the children.

### Objectives:

- To raise numeracy standards.
- To use ICT to raise numeracy standards.
- To give children the opportunity to socialise in a comfortable and safe environment.
- To give children the right start to the day through proper nutrition.
- To improve mathematical confidence and enjoyment of the subject.

### Approach

The group (Year 6) was targeted because of their progress in mathematics and the basic concepts that were missing from their numeracy repertoire. Using ICT the

children used a range of programmes and activities to consolidate the four basic number operations. Using ICT the children became engaged in their learning and managed their progress through the activities.

All Year 6 children were invited to attend the breakfast club through letters to parents / carers and the club was also advertised through the school's weekly newsletter. The number of participants was good, with the majority of children attending.

### **Outcomes**

Outcomes were measured through the regular numeracy assessments taken at the end of each term. Children were measured against previous assessments, targets and Fischer Family Trust data.

The children who have taken part in the project have accelerated their numeracy progress and many more of the pupils are on track to meet Fischer Family Trust predictions for the end of KS2. The objectives of the project have been met with children improving maths scores, their confidence and enjoyment of the subject.

### **Benefits**

The obvious benefits are improved results in numeracy at the end of KS2 based on the children's predictions at the beginning of Year 6. The added confidence and enjoyment of maths as a subject has also been apparent when talking to children who have been involved in the breakfast club.

### **Recommendations for good practice**

ICT is a very good vehicle to engage pupils and the management of the club is relatively easy as the children can manage their own progression. The opportunity for children to have a healthy breakfast is also a bonus. This sets up the children for the day and can have a positive impact on the children for the rest of the school day.

### **Contact Details**

- Bruce Nicholson
- Highfield Community Primary School, Fordfield Road, Sunderland SR4 0DA
- Tel. 0191 5537655
- Email: [bruce.nicholson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:bruce.nicholson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk)