



## **CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT FOR PUPIL PREMIUMS IS WELCOME, BUT GREATEST IMPACT WILL COME FROM PROVEN SOLUTIONS**

**28 April, 2010:** As voters prepare to go to the polls, SHINE, the educational charity, today called on the next government to build on the cross-party consensus around pupil premiums by encouraging schools and local authorities across the country to use the premiums to implement existing initiatives that can already demonstrate a strong track record of helping disadvantaged students realise their full academic potential.

SHINE believes that building on proven success is the most cost-effective way to reduce the attainment gap at school and will therefore enable the next government to maximise the impact of this new policy. Based on its own experience in this field, SHINE also believes that pupil premiums have the greatest chance of success if they are used to fund properly structured, long term and robust academic support that is tailored to the needs of individual children and young people.

The consensus in favour of introducing pupil premiums is a response to the continued academic underperformance of students from low income families. For example:

- In 2009, more than 1 in 3 primary children receiving free school meals (FSM) failed to achieve the national standard in either English or maths Key Stage 2 SATs – twice as many as non-FSM children.
- At GCSE, only 27% of students on FSM achieved five or more A\*-C grade GCSEs (including English and maths) in 2009, compared with 54% of non-FSM students.

Over the past 10 years, SHINE has invested £11.5 million in developing and funding additional educational initiatives which encourage disadvantaged school children to raise their academic attainment levels. The charity works in partnership with primary and secondary state schools, the independent sector and world-class universities to develop projects including: intensive one-to-one literacy and numeracy support, Saturday enrichment programmes, homework support and internet-assisted learning.

Over the years, SHINE's projects have regularly delivered significant improvements in the academic attainment of participating students (see below). To achieve maximum impact from its grants, SHINE actively expands successful programmes or copies them into new locations.

# **SUPPORT AND HELP IN EDUCATION**

Dr. Caroline Whalley, formerly Director of Education, London Borough of Ealing and a Trustee of SHINE, said: *“Naturally SHINE welcomes this cross-party commitment to pupil premiums because targeting extra educational support to disadvantaged students is exactly what we’ve been doing ourselves for the last ten years. SHINE has spent millions building up a portfolio of successful programmes, working hard to get the most out of our investments by reproducing our most successful projects. We think this replication approach should be followed by the next government. Too many disadvantaged children are still short-changed at school, so the next government should seize the opportunity presented by this strong political consensus and act decisively to close the attainment gap once and for all.”*

SHINE’s Chief Executive, Stephen Shields, said: *“Our own experience has shown that the most effective projects are not just properly resourced, but also carefully targeted to the needs of each student. In some cases that will mean additional literacy or numeracy support, but in others it may mean providing exciting, hands on learning or enrichment opportunities – such as museum or theatre trips – for children who would not otherwise receive these wider learning opportunities. You need to be flexible and always focused on the main question – will these projects actually raise attainment?”*

**ENDS**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING A SHINE PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Images are available upon request

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ABOUT SHINE**

SHINE (Support and Help IN Education) funds and develops additional educational initiatives which encourage underachieving children and young people to raise their academic attainment levels. SHINE works in partnership with primary and secondary state schools, the independent sector and world-class universities to develop projects including intensive one-to-one literacy and numeracy support, Saturday enrichment programmes, homework support and internet-assisted learning.

Since August 2000, SHINE has committed £11.5 million to projects; this money is now helping almost 23,000 students from 850 schools in London and Manchester.

# **SUPPORT AND HELP IN EDUCATION**

SHINE's patrons are: **David Beckham, Sarah Brown, Gavyn Davies, Sir Alex Ferguson, Baroness Sarah Hogg, Sir Peter Ogden, Hon. Angad Paul, Prof. Alison Richard, June Sarpong and Dr. Sushil Wadhvani.**

SHINE's operating costs are covered by trustees so every penny received goes directly to the projects we fund. Further information on SHINE – including details of all projects currently funded – can be found at [www.shinetrust.org.uk](http://www.shinetrust.org.uk).

Examples of SHINE programmes include **SHINE on Saturday**, which provides underachieving children from low income families with a creative, practical approach to learning that covers the core subjects from a fresh direction, thereby enriching their weekday curriculum. Since 2001, SHINE has launched 19 SHINE on Saturday projects.

- In West London, one SHINE on Saturday has seen its previously underachieving SHINE-supported pupils go on to outperform their peers in national Key Stage 2 literacy tests for the past three years.
- In a Lambeth-based project, most children started with literacy levels below those expected for their age. In each of the past three years, they have finished the year at the expected level; their progress in maths has also been much greater than expected.