Acorn Academy

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Barriers to learning

Acorn Academy is in the Witham West ward and 71% of children at this school live in this ward. Census data for this ward shows that 9.5% of adults have accessed higher education (compared to 19.2% in England) and that 15.9% of households are described at 'high social class' (compared to 20.1% in England). This data is the lowest for each of the four Witham wards The school's IDSR shows that both PPG and SEND at this school are above the national average. The school holds records of safeguarding concerns, varying in significance, for approximately 30% of the children on roll.

In general terms, many PPG children experience one or more of the following barriers to learning:

- Attendance at school of below the expected level of 96%;
- Limited pre-school opportunities, especially around developing speaking and listening;
- Limited access to a positive outdoor environment;
- Low prior attainment;
- Unmet social, emotional and health needs with the family;
- Limited parental engagement in their learning.

The school has therefore used PPG funding to address these barriers, such as, for example, the employment of a home/school liaison officer to support the unmet social, emotional and health needs of families.

Barriers to learning are under constant review in order that the school can respond to changes in the school community whenever possible.