



A guide to Pupil Equity Funding and Sumdog

How Sumdog can support your school with closing the attainment gap.



What is Pupil Equity Funding?

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding allocated directly to schools in Scotland, targeted at closing the poverty-related attainment gap. Although funding is based on free school meal registration of pupils in P1–S3, schools and headteachers have flexibility in deciding how it is spent and which children can benefit. The Scottish government has issued [Pupil Equity Funding National Operational Guidance](#), and your local authority should offer complementary guidance about how PEF operates within your specific region.

What is Sumdog?

Sumdog is an online learning tool that provides personalised maths and spelling practice and low stakes tests that pupils love. It's fully aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence and tailors questions to each child's unique level.

Sumdog aims to narrow the attainment gap by helping every pupil reach their full potential and boosting the confidence of the disengaged, while giving teachers the tools to identify and nurture those that need extra support. We're here to support you with implementing a Sumdog strategy that aligns with your plans for PEF.





Maximising PEF effectively

Use of PEF

Pupil Equity funding should be targeted to improve the literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing of learners impacted by poverty. This can be through specific resources, such as Sumdog, or through activities or approaches that you feel would be appropriate.

Headteachers and schools have flexibility in deciding this, and in deciding which pupils should benefit from the funding. You know best how the funding can deliver equity and support your school, your young people, and your community. This guide aims to help you use that knowledge in implementing a strategy for Sumdog.

Identify your attainment gap

[Government guidance](#) states that you must develop a 'robust contextual analysis', considering data from multiple sources as well as your own knowledge of the communities you serve.

Sumdog can form an important part of this analysis. The diagnostic and assessment tools accurately pinpoint the level that each child is working at and provide easy-to-read stranded skill reports. These reports can help you to identify where extra support or challenge is needed.

22/23 Diagnostic Test Report						
<div><div></div> Sumdog's new diagnostic was introduced on August 3. Read about how it works. The first questions Sumdog asks after the diagnostic will be taken from a level below a pupil's result. This is to consolidate with more challenging questions.</div>						
RESET	PUPIL	DIAGNOSTIC RESULT	PRETEST SCORE	TEST SCORE	NUMBER	SHAPE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Bailey P1	MID EARLY LEVEL ^[1]	6/15	12/40	9/31	0/4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scarlett Brown P6	STARTING SECOND LEVEL	13/15	28/40	16/25	5/6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Penny Byrne S1	MID SECOND LEVEL	7/15	18/40	14/32	2/5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lola Harris P7	MID SECOND LEVEL	10/15	36/40	23/25	5/6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruby Kirsten P5	MID FIRST LEVEL	7/15	22/40	15/24	1/3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belle Nedley P3	MID FIRST LEVEL	6/15	13/40	7/22	1/4

There are [five key factors](#) which may be helpful to reflect on: attainment and achievement, attendant, inclusion, engagement, and participation. Sumdog can help you particularly as you consider inclusion and engagement. Regardless of age or ability, every pupil chooses from the same selection of high-quality games, and the questions adapt to each child's ability. Maths anxiety is reduced, engagement is increased, and every child feels included.



Consult with your community

Teachers, parents, carers and pupils should all be meaningfully involved throughout the processes of planning, implementation and evaluation.

We often hear from our schools that Sumdog helps to motivate those pupils who are hardest to engage, thanks to exciting games, personalised questions, and virtual rewards. As Sumdog can be played on a range of devices, parents can also witness the impact and get involved supporting home learning, where possible and appropriate.

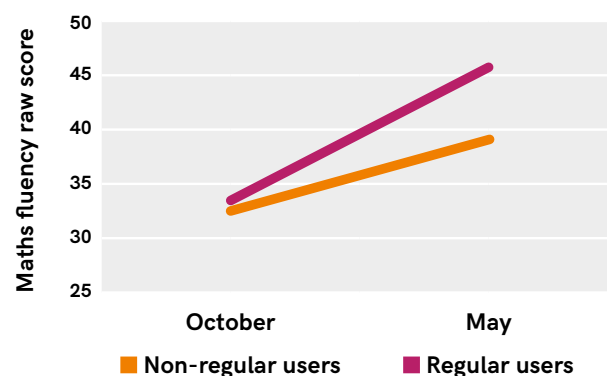
'I have a pupil who came into Primary 5 with a very low scoring maths ability... I used Sumdog as a tool in conjunction with other methods to raise his confidence and foster independence in his maths ability. Because of Sumdog's link with home he has been able to practise on his mum's phone and is starting to enjoy maths and his attainment is beginning to show improvement. He can now be motivated to complete classroom maths activities in his jotter as "practice" for the Sumdog games.'

Mark Clayson, Teacher, Heathryburn School, Aberdeen

Use evidence

Your plans should be based on local and national data and reference to research, including the [SAC Theory of Change and Logic Model](#). They should be underpinned by a clear understanding of the communities they aim to serve.

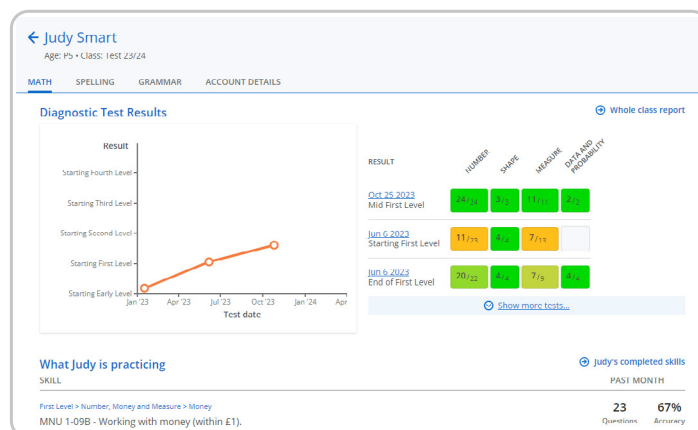
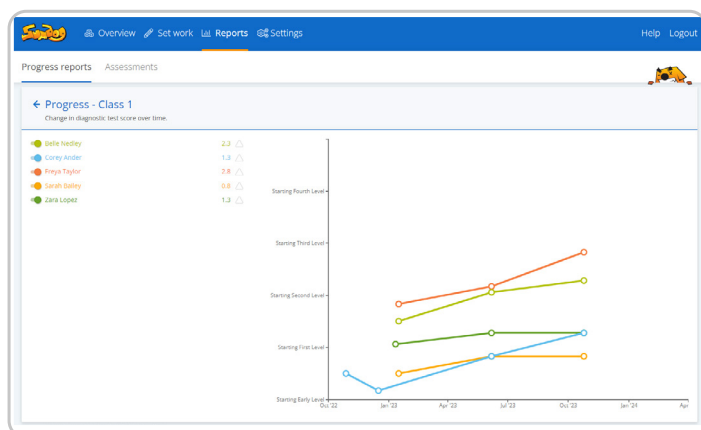
Sumdog is proven to accelerate progress, as shown in an independent study published by the Chartered College of Teaching. The data demonstrated that using Sumdog for just 30 minutes or more a week improved their maths fluency at almost double the rate. 30 minutes a week almost doubled children's fluency.



Measure progress

All aims should be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timed). Baseline data is needed to be able to show progress towards these aims.

Sumdog's progress chart tracks pupils' diagnostic scores over time so you can see where they started, where they are now, and the progress they've made. You can also use our assessments and reports to identify and address any misconceptions in real time.





Evaluate the impact

Monitoring and evaluation should be an ongoing process throughout the period defined in your SMART goals. You should report on the impact publicly and share outcomes with your community.

Sumdog is fully aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence, so reports can help you evaluate the impact of all your interventions and programs, not just the positive effect that Sumdog is having. You must report on the impact of your PEF plans publicly so that the information is available to parents and carers, but you can also share with pupils in a more informal way throughout the process. Send extra coins to those who may need a little more motivation, along with a personalised message to acknowledge their effort and achievements.

Example strategy

Below is an example of how you might incorporate Sumdog into your PEF strategy. Our Account Managers are available to support you in implementing a personalised strategy.

Identified gap/barrier	Outcome for Learners	Intervention	Impact measure
<i>What gaps have you identified through analysis of data and context?</i>	<i>What change do you want to see? Who are your target group?</i>	<i>What do you plan to do?</i>	<i>How will you measure the change?</i>
Data obtained internally indicates that maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is below that of non-disadvantaged pupils. Particularly evident in current P2 and P3.	Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of First Level.	Sumdog will be used in school and at home to support maths fluency. Training for staff to ensure Sumdog is well utilised and embedded into teaching and learning in school.	Sumdog will be used alongside other assessment tools to identify gaps and show the gap is decreasing. First Level maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that disadvantaged pupils will have made accelerate progress from their starting points.



Contact us today to find out how Sumdog can
be used to support your PEF needs.

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