Putting Disadvantaged Students First: A Whole School Approach

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From fire fighting to a sustainable plan: key tips to support the needs of disadvantaged learners alongside their peers

- Whole school understanding of the risk factors and confidence in the protective factors
- Each hour with each student in the classroom
- Each interaction with staff

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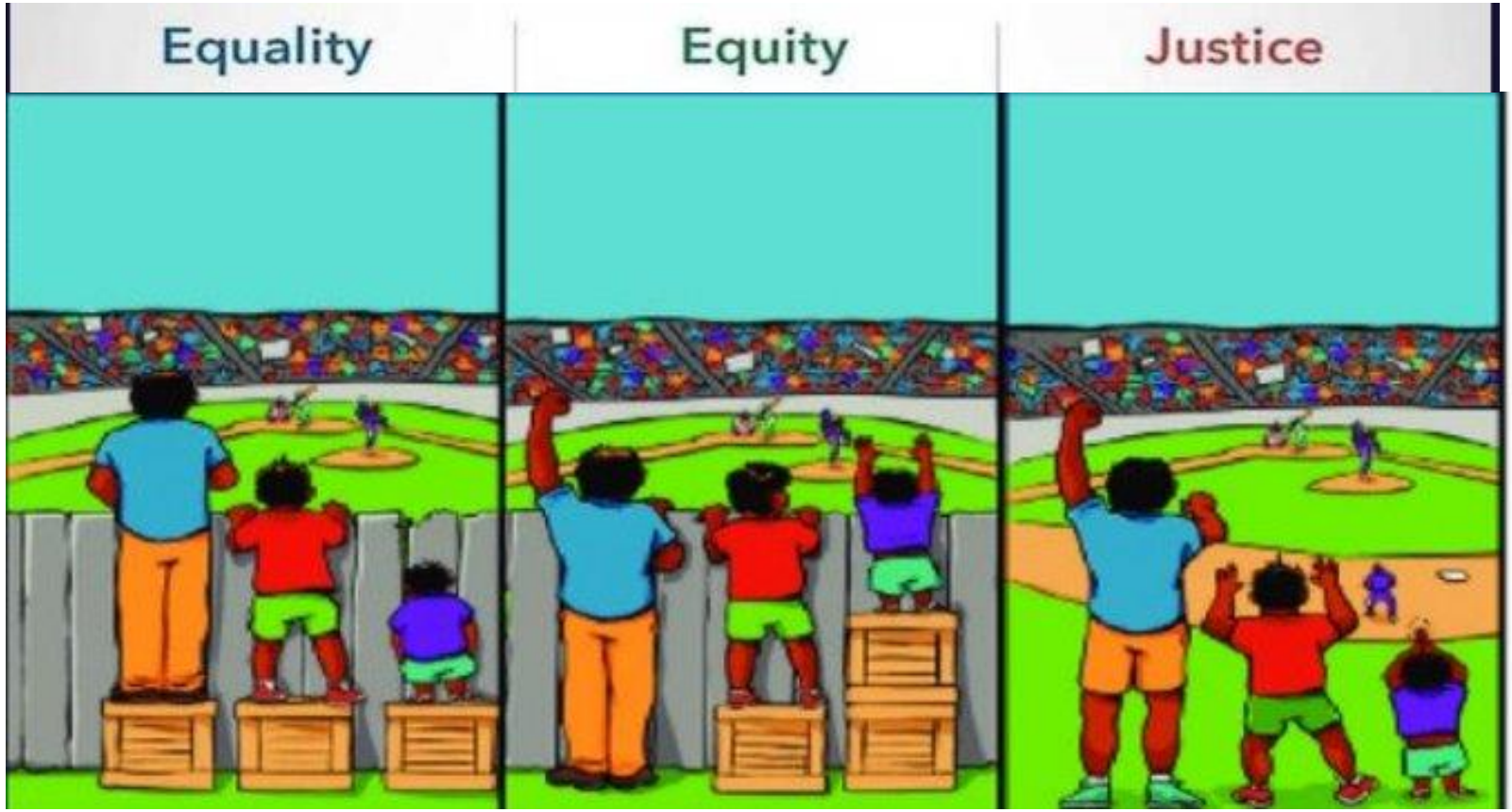

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What was the impact of the pandemic on the challenges already faced by the disadvantaged?

- Literacy gap
- Barriers to working effectively at home
- Barriers to inclusion (financial barriers)
- Barriers to inclusion (unconscious bias or overt prejudice)

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Whole school strategy on literacy

Wave 1 - whole school policy to increase reading ability and reading for pleasure

Wave 2 – ensuring this benefits the disadvantaged the most

Wave 3 – interventions where there is still a gap

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Whole school strategy to improve home learning

Wave 1 - whole school home learning policy focused on accessible, relevant homework

Wave 2 – ensuring this benefits the disadvantaged the most

Wave 3 – interventions where there is still a gap

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Whole school strategy to ensure students feel included

Wave 1 - whole school policies, curriculum and events are poverty proofed

Wave 2 – parents know how they are included; staff understand their role

Wave 3 – interventions where there is still a gap

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Whole school strategy to remove unconscious bias and overt prejudice

Wave 1 - whole school work to become an Anti-Racist School

Wave 2 – staff understand importance of barriers as well as need for high expectations for racially minoritised learners

Wave 3 – interventions where there is still a gap

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National Tutoring Programme

- Wave 3

2020-21

40 Y11 students English/Maths

40 Y7-11 students literacy, numeracy, social/emotional support

- 2021-22

40 Y11 students English/Maths

70 students - School Led Tutoring

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Protective factors
- consistent leadership and strategy
- evidence based
- lessons learned from lockdown learning
- more government funding

Ongoing risk factors
- strain of pandemic on staff capacity
- ‘hidden’ disadvantage
- restrictions on how government funding can be spent
- uncertainties of future funding

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