

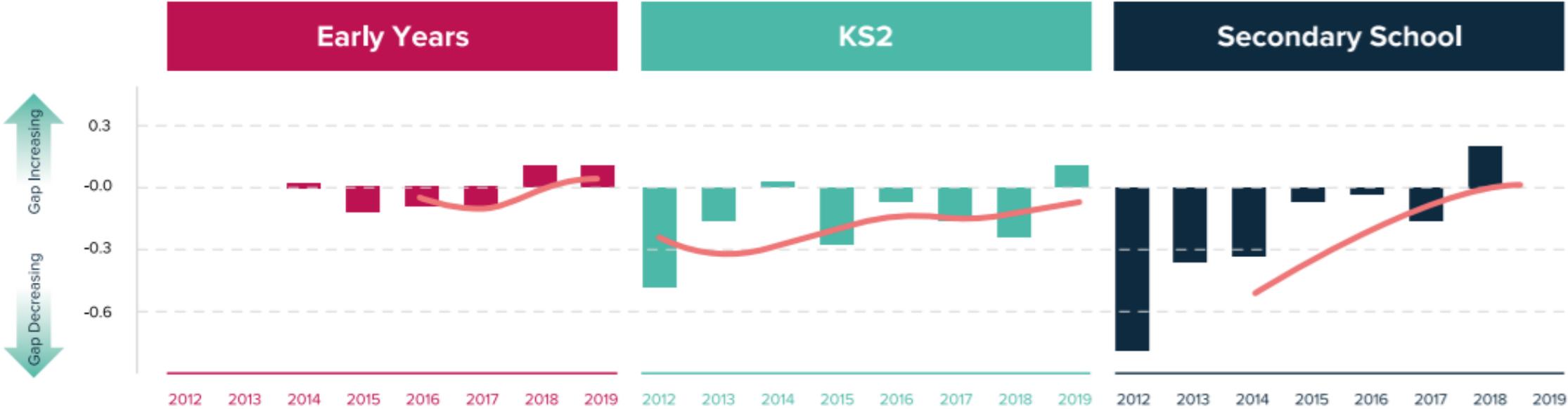
# Education spending: Resourced for levelling up?

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# Even before the pandemic, the disadvantage gap had started to widen for 5-16 year olds

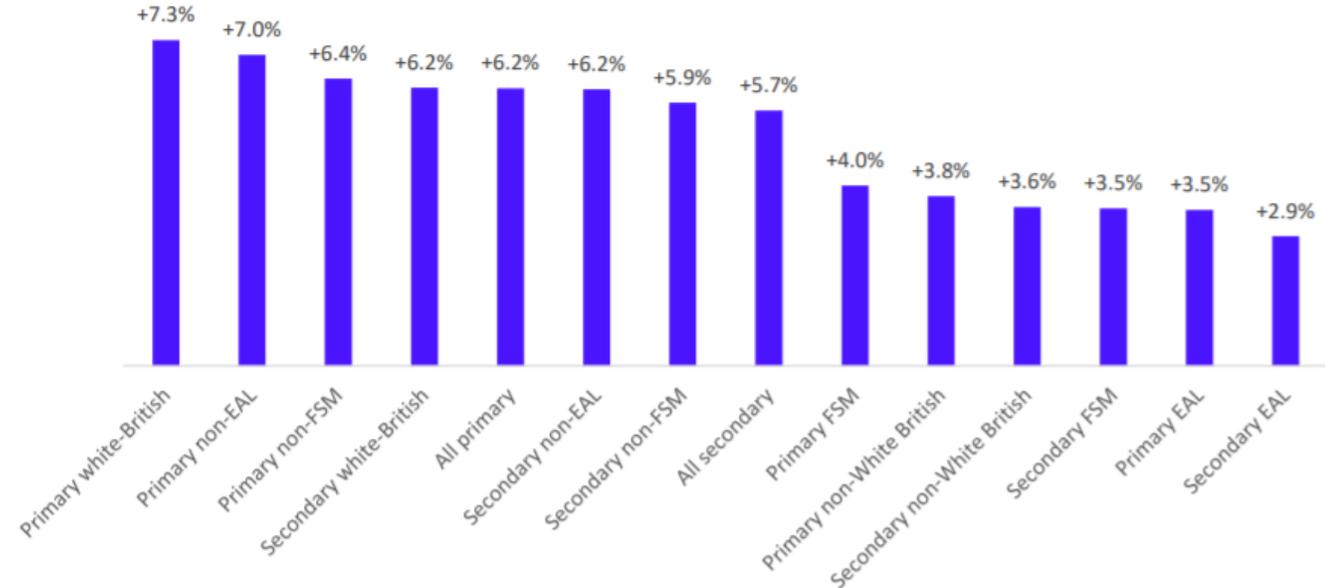


- In 2018, the gap started to widen in the early years and in secondary school
- In 2019, it started to also widen in primary school too (for the first time since 2007)

# The National Funding Formula has weakened the link between funding and need

- In seeking to ‘level-up’ funding through the national funding formula and additional money for schools since 2018, the government has in fact weakened the link between funding and need.
- While there have been large differences in funding across schools and local authorities, recent policies have meant that pupils from more affluent backgrounds are attracting larger increases to funding rates compared to those from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

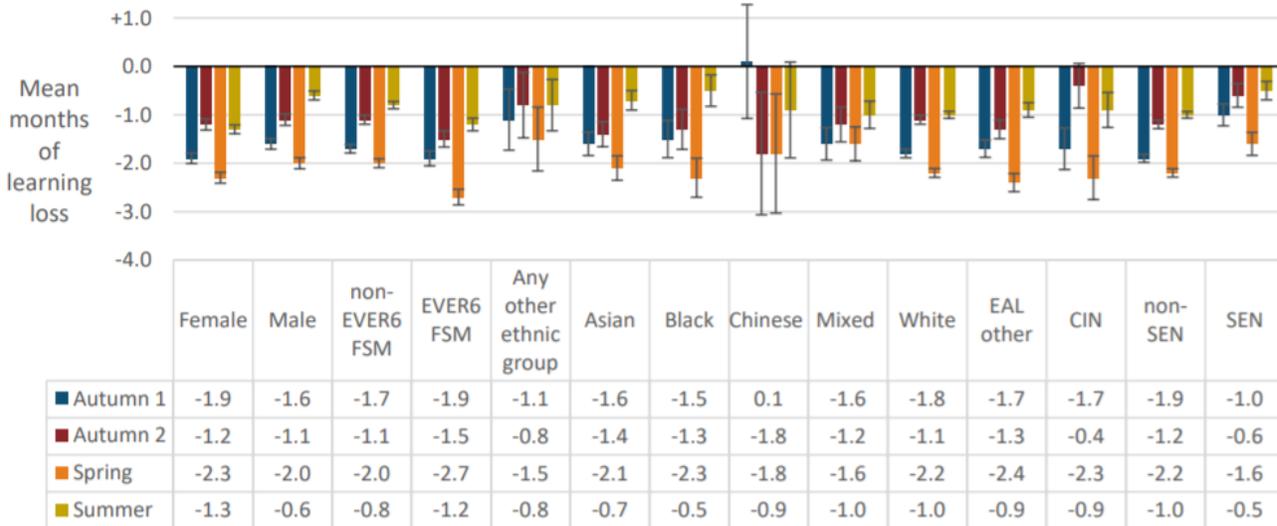
Change in per pupil funding by pupil characteristics between 2017-18 and 2021-22 (real terms)



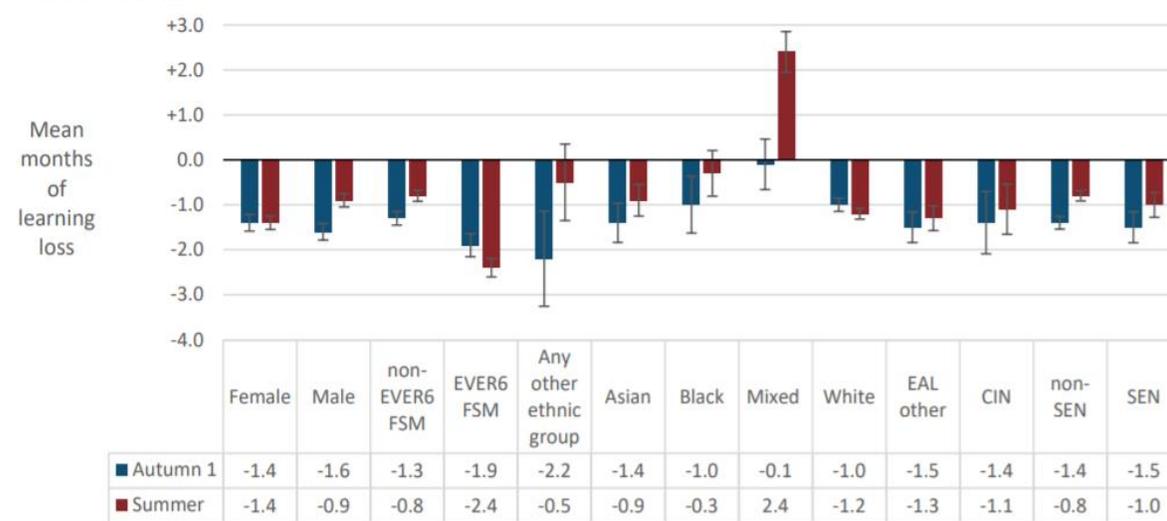
# But the disadvantage gap has widened as a result of the pandemic

- By the 2021 summer term, **learning losses for disadvantaged primary pupils were 1.2 months in reading and 2.6 months in maths** (compared to 0.8 and 1.3 months for non-disadvantaged pupils)
- Disadvantaged pupils in secondary schools were 2.4 months behind in reading in summer 2021** (compared to 0.8 months for non-disadvantaged pupils).
- These disparities provide evidence of a widening of the “disadvantage gap”. EPI estimates that **the relative learning loss for disadvantaged pupils over the course of the pandemic is the equivalent to undoing up to a third of the progress made over the last decade in narrowing the disadvantage gap in primary.**

Estimated mean learning loss in reading (primary schools) by characteristics



Estimated mean learning loss by autumn 1 and summer, in months, in reading (secondary schools) by characteristics

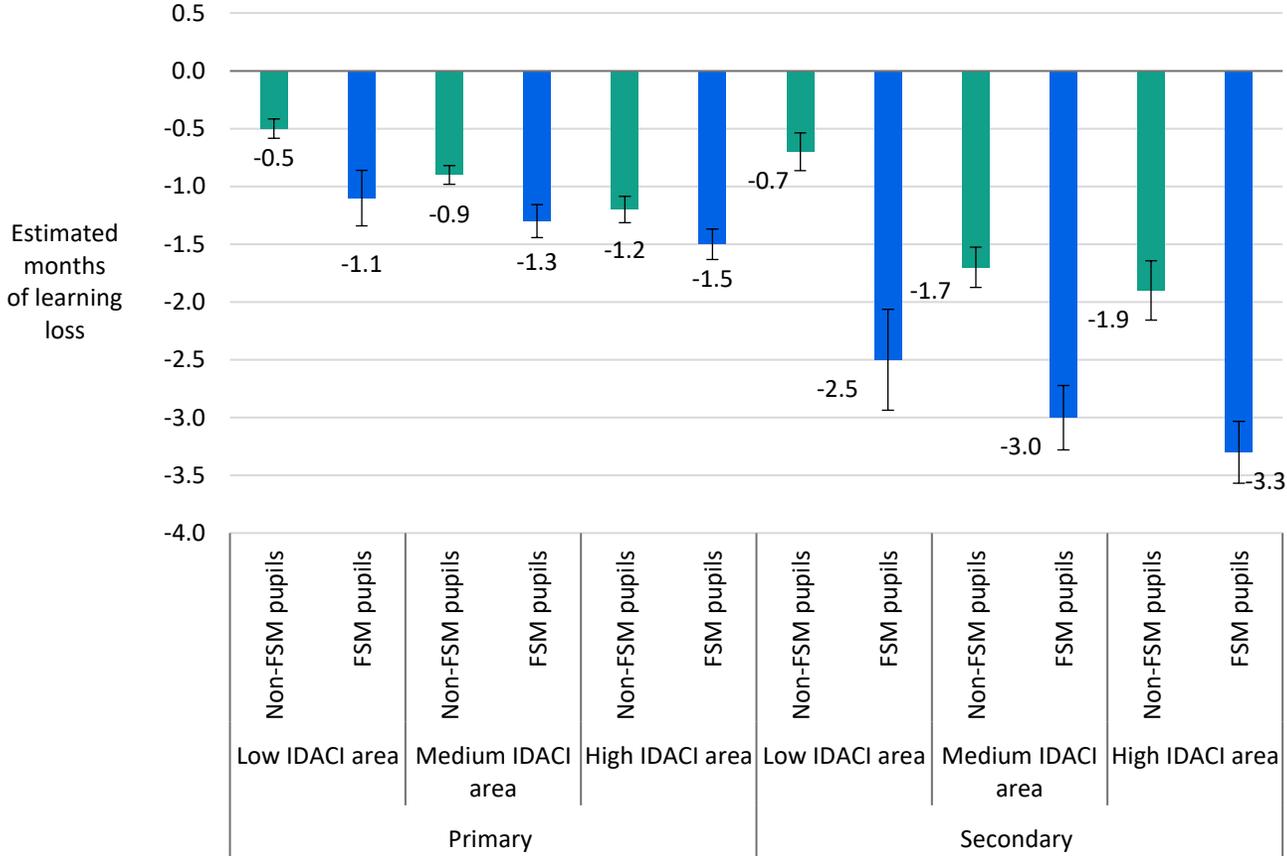


# Area level disadvantage matters too

As well as variation by pupil disadvantage, we find:

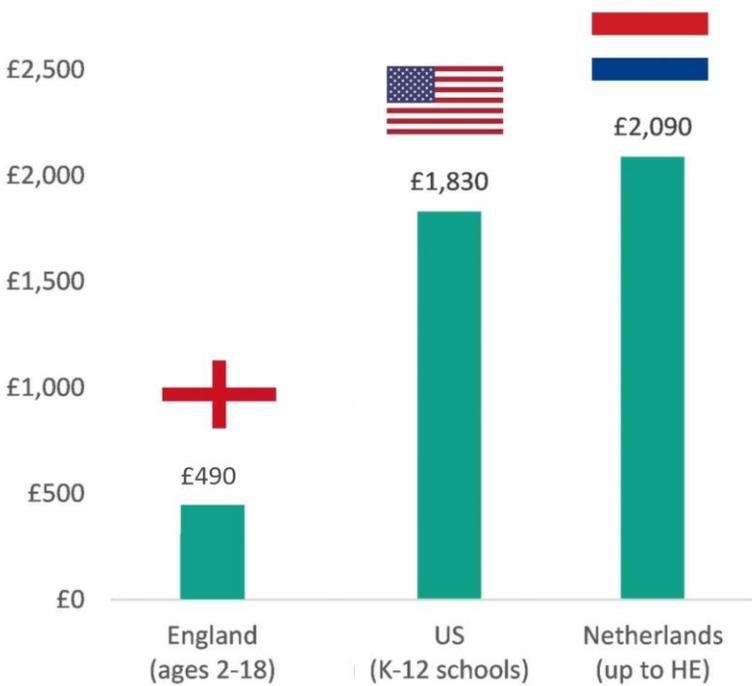
- variation in learning losses by the level of disadvantage of the area in which pupils live.
- non-disadvantaged pupils in areas with medium and high levels of disadvantage experienced a similar or greater degree of learning loss to disadvantaged pupils in areas with low levels of disadvantage.
- This is important to note as **disadvantage clearly impacts learning losses at both an area-level as well as at a pupil-level.**

Estimated mean learning loss by summer, in months, in reading (primary and secondary schools) by pupil and area-level disadvantage



# Recovery funding is simply not enough to meet the challenges of the pandemic

## Spending review and education recovery



Funding from the UK Government to support pupils' recovery from the pandemic in England now amounts to around **£490 per pupil.**

In comparison, education recovery plans in the United States and the Netherlands amount to around **£2,000 per pupil.**

Latest EPI analysis: 'Education recovery and resilience in England: Phase two report', October 2021