



Pupil Premium Policy

Date of issue:	September 2024
Review Date	September 2026
To be reviewed	Headteacher, Staff and Governors
Authorised by	Headteacher and Governors

Background

Nationally, there is a significant attainment gap between pupils who receive free school meals (FSM) and those who do not. The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those who are not by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

Pupil premium funding is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of:

- *pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM)*
- *children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales*

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. It can be used:

- *to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer*
- *for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium> (Feb 2024)

In most cases, the Pupil Premium is allocated to schools and is clearly identifiable. It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium is allocated and spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.

Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium Grant as they see fit. However, they will be held accountable for how they have used the additional funding to support targeted pupils. Measures included in the performance tables capture the achievement of those pupils covered by the Pupil Premium Grant. From September 2012, schools have been required to publish online information

about how they have used the Premium. This will ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the attainment of pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

Funding criteria	Amount of funding for each primary-aged pupil per year
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Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years	£ 1,480
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Pupils previously looked after by a local authority or other state care	£ 2,570
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For children who are currently looked after by the Local Authority, the Local Authority administers the payment to schools.

The Government has used pupils entitled to Free School meals as an indicator for deprivation, and have deployed a fixed amount of money to schools per pupil, based on the number of pupils registered for Free School Meals.

Principles

The Staff and Governors of St. Nicholas C of E Primary School are totally committed to ensuring that provision is made which secures the best learning and teaching opportunities for each pupil, to enable all to make maximum progress and reach their potential.

Our school welcomes and shares the Government's aim of tackling all forms of disadvantage and working to ensure inclusion and equality of access for all learners. Specific and general school funds are used to tackle different disadvantaged or vulnerable groups and individual needs. Pupil Premium must be used to target the specific group identified by the Government.

Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals.

Provision

We are committed to excellence and the maintenance of high standards. We offer a wide range of provision, aimed at enabling all learners to enjoy and thrive in learning and achieve their best whatever their talents and needs. All our work through the Pupil Premium will be aimed at accelerating progress and moving children to at least age related expectations. Primarily, this will be in

English and Maths, whilst also acknowledging the affect that behaviour, emotional development and attendance has on progress in this and other areas.

Rationale for decisions about provision

Pupil Premium funding will be used in the first instance to support the learning needs of the children in receipt of Free School Meals who need extra support. However, this provision may also include other children who have been identified as vulnerable or disadvantaged.

The school's leadership team will monitor the attainment and progress of all pupils and decide which pupils need additional provision and what this provision will be. We use on-going formative and summative assessment to identify children's learning needs and plan next steps in teaching. Through discussion with the class teacher and SENCO, a range of additional support and resources/opportunities may be provided that is felt to best meet the child's needs.

When considering the deployment and funding of additional support through Pupil Premium and other school budget monies, we carefully take into account the following options in order to maximize the impact for the pupil:

- Facilitation / supporting pupil's access to education through 1:1 or small group work
- Facilitation / supporting pupil's access to the schools' curriculum, including the purchasing of additional resources and / or staff training
- Support in addition to the provision made in the classroom, e.g. specific programmes or targeted interventions including those for emotional or behavioural needs
- Additional opportunities to enhance or complement the school experience, e.g. school trips, music tuition etc.
- Support from an outside agency
- Encouraging punctuality and regular attendance for those children where this is, or may become, an issue.

In order to ensure effective use of this funding we:

- Ring fence the funding so that we always spend it on the target group of pupils
- Never confuse eligibility for Pupil Premium with low ability
- Thoroughly analyse which pupils are underachieving, particularly in English and Maths, and why this may be
- Allocate the funding to activities most likely to have an impact on improving achievement
- Ensure that day-to-day teaching meets the needs of each learner
- Allocate experienced and effective teachers and teaching assistants to intervention and tuition groups
- Use tracking data regularly to review the impact and success of interventions or techniques and make adjustments where necessary
- Ensure that staff are aware of Pupil Premium learners and understand their role in helping those pupils to achieve
- Give clear and focused feedback to pupils about their work and ways in which they can improve it

- Ensure that a designated teacher and governor have a clear overview of how the funding is allocated and the difference it is making to the outcomes for pupils
- Agree our policy for spending Pupil Premium and publicise information on our website
- Attempt to provide support to families where attendance, behaviour or links with school are barriers to learning
- Include discussions regarding Pupil Premium learners in class pupil progress meetings and staff Performance Management meetings
- Timetable meetings between the SENCO and teachers / TAs to monitor the impact of interventions and to ensure that staff are accountable for progress
- Use published data to compare attainment and progress of groups of learners. Governors and staff use these to track and identify strength and weaknesses within the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

We expect all members of our school community, particularly staff and governors to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils. The Head teacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of pupil premium. As such, the Head teacher will:

- Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner in order to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. Information regarding eligibility and potential benefits to the school/child will be provided in posters, letters/newsletters and on the school website.
- Keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have a proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement and use this to inform future strategies to combat social disadvantage
- Ensure all teaching staff are aware of which children within their class are in receipt of pupil premium and are aware of their responsibilities in supporting all children in their class, including those who are socially disadvantaged
- Ensure that effectively utilising the Pupil Premium to 'close the gap' is high on the school's agenda and is included with performance management discussions
- Monitor the Pupil Premium budget
- Ensure all monitoring of impact and reporting is carried out (see below).

Monitoring and Evaluation of Provision

Additional provision is monitored regularly and adaptations made as necessary. The overall effectiveness and impact is evaluated through pupil progress meetings and meetings to review the impact of interventions. In evaluating effectiveness, a range of evidence is used including:

- Attainment and progress outcomes
- Relevant feedback from staff, the child, parents and other professionals who may be involved
- Observational evidence relating to improved confidence, well-being, attitude and behaviour.

The Full Governing Body will have monitoring oversight of the use of Pupil Premium Funding and the provision it supports.

Reporting

The Headteacher, or a delegated member of senior staff, will report to the Governing Body as part of the reporting on data and progress. This report will include:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for children eligible for the Pupil Premium compared with those children not in receipt of Pupil Premium
- An outline of the provision and the impact of this provision on narrowing the gap
- The average progress of the pupils receiving support funded from Pupil Premium
- Comparative data showing our school's progress, relative to other schools nationally, through data supplied in the annual published reports
- Due to the very low number often in receipt of Free School Meals, information regarding provision and progress may be more appropriate (anonymously) on a case study basis.

The Governors of the school will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department for Education and published on the school website.