

Pupil premium strategy statement – Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary School

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	106
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	7%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement for each academic year)	2023/2024 to 2054/2026
Date this statement was published	December 2023
Date on which it will be reviewed	June 2024
Statement authorised by	<i>Hannah Holmes,</i> Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	<i>Hannah Holmes</i> Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	<i>Sue Scott,</i> lead for disadvantaged pupils

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£8730
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£725
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years	0
Total budget for this academic year	£9455

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

High-quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged pupils require the most support. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time will benefit the non-disadvantaged pupils in our school. Implicit in the intended outcomes detailed below, is the intention that non-disadvantaged pupils' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our strategy is also integral to wider school plans for education recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, notably in its targeted support through the National Tutoring Programme for pupils whose education has been worst affected, including non-disadvantaged pupils.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident from Reception through to KS2 and in general, are more prevalent among our disadvantaged pupils than their peers.
2	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with reading than their peers.

	On entry to Reception class in the last 2 years, between 100% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 0-50% of other pupils. This gap narrows but remains an area of focus by the end of KS2.
3	Internal and external assessments indicate that maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is below that of non-disadvantaged pupils. On entry to Reception class in the last 2 years, between 100% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 0-50% of other pupils. This gap remains a focus as pupils travel through school.
4	Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families indicate that the education and wellbeing of many of our disadvantaged pupils continues to be affected by the impact of the partial school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to a greater extent than for other pupils. These findings are supported by national studies. This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations, especially in reading.
5	Our assessments (including wellbeing surveys), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, notably due a lack of enrichment opportunities. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupil. Teacher referrals for support remain relatively high. 8 pupils (3 of whom are disadvantaged) currently require additional support with social and emotional needs, with 8 (3 of whom are disadvantaged) receiving small group interventions.
6	Our attendance data over the last years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been 5% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.
7	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with writing than their peers. On entry to Reception class in the last 2 years, between 100% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 0-50% of other pupils. This gap narrows but remains an area of focus by the end of KS2.

Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for **by the end of our current strategy plan**, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including

	engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	KS2 maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high levels of wellbeing by 2024/25 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations. • a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high attendance by 2024/25 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 5%. • the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 10% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 5% lower than their peers.
Improved writing attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	KS2 maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £5000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments. Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly.	When used effectively, diagnostic assessments can indicate areas for development for individual pupils, or across classes and year groups: Diagnostic assessment EEF	1, 2, 3, 4
Embedding dialogic activities across the school curriculum. These can support pupils to articulate key ideas, consolidate	There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are	1, 7

understanding and extend vocabulary. We will purchase resources and fund ongoing teacher training and release time.	inexpensive to implement with high impacts on reading: Oral language interventions Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	
Purchase of a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base that indicates a positive impact on the accuracy of word reading, particularly for disadvantaged pupils: Phonics Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	2, 4
Enhancement of our maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance. We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in school and to access Maths Hub resources and CPD (including Teaching for Mastery training).	The DfE non-statutory guidance has been produced in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, drawing on evidence-based approaches: Mathematics guidance: key stages 1 and 2 The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence: Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3	3
Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning and enrichment opportunities for pupils. SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.	There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers): Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools EEF	5

Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £2730

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Investment in tuition, mentoring and school-led tutoring for pupils whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. A significant proportion of the pupils who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one: One to one tuition Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF And in small groups: Small group tuition Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	1, 2, 3, 4

Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support. This will be delivered with support from our Trust Reading Lead and our systematic phonics programme consultant.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks: Phonics Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	2
Purchase of a programme to improve listening, narrative and vocabulary skills for disadvantaged pupils who have relatively low spoken language skills.	Oral language interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' language skills. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: Oral language interventions Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	1, 4
Purchase of a programme to improve transcription, grammar and composition for disadvantaged pupils.	Literacy approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, especially the disadvantaged. EEF improving literacy in KS2	7

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: **£1000**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Whole staff training on behaviour management approaches with the aim of developing our school ethos and continuing to improve behaviour across school.	Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: Behaviour interventions Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	5
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's guidance on working together to improve school attendance . This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures and appointing attendance/support officers to improve attendance.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.	6
Contingency fund for acute issues.	Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount	All

	of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	
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Total budgeted cost: £8730

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

We have analysed the performance of our school’s disadvantaged pupils during the previous academic year, drawing on national assessment data and our own internal summative and formative assessments.

The data demonstrated that 100% of Reception children are at age related expectations in reading, writing and maths. In Year 1, 50% (1 of two pupils) passed the Year 1 Phonics Screen. At the end of KS2, 100% (1 child) of disadvantaged children achieved the expected standard of reading and writing. This pupil did not meet the expected standard in Maths at the end of KS2.

To help us gauge the performance of our disadvantaged pupils we compared their outcomes to those for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils at national and local level (though these comparisons are to be considered with caution given ongoing pandemic impacts) and to results achieved by our non-disadvantaged pupils.

We have also drawn on school data and observations to assess wider issues impacting disadvantaged pupils' performance, including attendance, behaviour and wellbeing.

The data demonstrated that attendance of disadvantaged pupils is 5% lower than non-disadvantaged pupils. It shows that disadvantaged pupils require additional support linked to behaviour, well-being and access to extra-curricular clubs/activities.

Based on all the information above, the performance of our disadvantaged pupils met expectations, and we are at present on course to achieve the outcomes we set out to achieve by 2025/26, as stated in the Intended Outcomes section above.

Our evaluation of the approaches delivered last academic year indicates that our phonics and maths approach and strategies are positively impacting outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils. Early indicators are showing our approach to oral and vocabulary skills are having an impact on the disadvantaged pupils. Data has identified writing as an area of need for our pupils, this will be a focus during this academic year.

We have reviewed our strategy plan and made changes to how we intend to use some of our budget this academic year. The Further Information section below provides more details about our planning, implementation, and evaluation processes.

Further information

Additional activity

Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:

- embedding more effective practice around feedback. [EEF evidence on feedback](#) demonstrates this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- utilising a [DfE grant to train a senior mental health lead](#). The training we have selected will focus on the training needs identified through the online tool: to develop our understanding of our pupils' needs, give pupils a voice in how we address wellbeing, and support more effective collaboration with parents.
- offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration. Activities will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising. Disadvantaged pupils will be encouraged and supported to participate.

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we evaluated why activity undertaken in previous years had not had the degree of impact that we had expected. We also commissioned a pupil premium review to get an external perspective.

We triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, engagement in class book scrutiny, conversations with parents, students and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils. We also contacted schools local to us with high-performing disadvantaged pupils to learn from their approach.

We looked at several reports, studies and research papers about effective use of pupil premium, the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.

We used the [EEF's implementation guidance](#) to help us develop our strategy, particularly the 'explore' phase to help us diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.

We have put a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils.