



Pupil Premium Policy (Incorporating the Pupil Premium Strategy)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...”

Isaiah 61:1

Pupil Premium Policy (incorporating the Pupil Premium Strategy – see website)

The purpose of this policy is to outline how we will ensure that the Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and peers.

The DfE has given us freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs and evidence of effective practice. ‘School leaders are best placed to assess their pupils’ needs and use the funding to improve attainment, drawing on evidence of effective practice. It is up to school leaders to decide how to spend the pupil premium’.

However, we are accountable for the use of this additional funding. We are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level. They capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

We are aware that under The School Information (England) Regulations 2012, Schedule 4 there is specified information which has to be published on a school’s website. Section 9 of this regulation requires schools to publish the amount of the school’s allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year’s allocation was spent, and the effect of the expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom granting was allocated. We are aware that from the 2021-22 academic year, we must use the template provided to publish our statement.

Through this policy we shall publish the above information. In meeting this requirement, we will observe our continuing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, so that individuals or groups of individuals, including children funded through the Pupil Premium cannot be identified.

How we will make decisions regarding the use of pupil premium

We will ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose.

We will use the latest evidence-based research on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.

We will be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents and OFSTED are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.

We will encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner, and to remove any potential barriers attached to claiming FSM.

We will be mindful and fully aware of the fact that eligibility does not equate with pupils being considered to be of low ability or SEN because of their social circumstance.

We will ensure that there is a robust monitoring and tracking system that allows us to account for the use of the Pupil Premium.

We will recognise that all disadvantaged pupils are not a homogenous group and cover a wide range of needs. Therefore, strategies used to raise attainment will take this into account.

We will use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment as well as targeted academic support and wider strategies.

We will use Pupil Premium for all year groups and not just those taking examinations.

Roles and Responsibilities

We expect all members of our school community, particularly staff and governors to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the gap for our pupils.

It will be the responsibility of an Assistant Principal, with support of other members of the Senior Leadership Team for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. They will also ensure that staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment. Through performance management arrangements, they will make sure that narrowing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the school.

They will monitor the following:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils
- An outline of the provision that has been made since the last annual report
- An evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of each intervention in terms of progress made by the pupils.

Teaching and support staff

Teaching and support staff will:

- Be aware of all pupils receiving pupil premium in their lessons
- Maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability' or SEN
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive

- Plan and deliver the curriculum and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- Support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and adaptive teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind,
- Keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement
- Provide opportunities for staff to engage in professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

Governing Body

Our governing body has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps in implemented. The Assistant Principal in charge of Pupil Premium and members of the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Our governing body will keep our work under review so that they can monitor the use of Pupil Premium. In monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the governing body will take into account a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and achievement) and qualitative (surveys, pupil response, etc.) data as evidence.

At the end of the academic year, our governors will ensure that there is an annual report to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of narrowing the gaps in our school and the impact this has had. This will be published on the website after the release of GCSE results.

Monitoring and Reviewing the policy

Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well. Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies we are using.

Birmingham Virtual School recognises that schools and educational settings are in the best position to make use of resources in order to raise the attainment of looked after children and previously looked after children. Pupil Premium Plus spending should be linked clearly to each individual child/young person's targets, as identified on their Personal Education Plans and to provide any additional funding to support young people with intensive support needs.

Funds must be used to close the gap in attainment and progress between Looked After Children, previously Looked After Children and their peers; and in doing so if there are additional assessed social, emotional and mental health needs that are in themselves a barrier to engaging and progressing with academic learning, then use of PP+ funding for Interventions designed to address these needs are legitimate.

Recovery Premium Funding

In February 2021, the government announced a one-off recovery premium as part of its package of funding to support education recovery. The recovery premium provides additional funding for state-funded schools in the 2021-22 academic year. Building on the Pupil Premium, this funding will help us to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting disadvantaged pupils. In our PP strategy statement, we will explain our strategy for using the recovery premium for 2021-22 to improve outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils.

School Led Tutoring

Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in significant missed education by pupils. Disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils have been particularly impacted. The Government is offering schools and academy trusts a new expanded tutoring offer from the start of academic year 2021/22. Under School-Led Tutoring, all eligible state-funded schools and academy trusts are given a ring-fenced grant to fund locally sourced tutoring provision for disadvantaged pupils. We will use existing staff and external tutoring resources to improve outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils using this grant. We will provide data to the government through the School Census and an online form developed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Please note that the Pupil Premium strategy statement is found on the school's website on

<https://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk/site/data/files/pupil%20premium/E804BB548C9846B012DB9D4C49033632.pdf>

Ratified by Governors: 06/10/2021

Next Review Due: 06/10/2022

(This policy will remain in force beyond the review date if no updates are required)