

Supporting Disadvantaged Pupils: Our School Statement

The Department for Education state that:

'The pupil premium grant is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England. It's a school-level grant that gives schools extra resources to help them meet challenges, including those arising from deprivation.

It's allocated for schools to:

- *improve the academic outcomes of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities*
- *close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers across the country'*

Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The Pupil Premium is designed to enable schools to support these pupils to fulfil their potential.

The Government have 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 within the last six years.

The Government do not dictate how schools should spend this money, but are clear that schools will need to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment. The rationale for this is that: 'improvements in attainment support the ultimate aim of pupil premium funding - to better prepare disadvantaged pupils for adult life, the world of work and a sustainable future as an active member of society' (Department for Education).

As a school we plan and review our Pupil Premium spend annually, to ensure it is having the desired impact (see our Pupil Premium Strategy documents for more details). The school pays careful attention to the issues faced by any of our vulnerable pupils and seeks to address these, whilst also closely monitoring their attainment. We also recognise that not all pupils who have received free school meals will be socially disadvantaged, and not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.

We currently have six main strands to our plan to improve outcomes for these pupils:

1. Improve attainment, especially in reading
2. Support those pupils who also have additional needs
3. Support those pupils who also speak English as an Additional Language
4. Ensure those pupils have high levels of attendance
5. Ensure those pupils are ready and able to learn
6. Increase and expand the life experiences for those pupils

Whilst specific support is obviously an essential way of meeting some children's needs, the EEF recommends that schools use the grant firstly to improve teaching quality - which benefits all pupils but has a disproportionate benefit for disadvantaged pupils. Basic needs, pastoral and academic support follow. Interventions and strategies employed need to take into consideration the existing evidence base and how well they suit the school's specific needs and aims.

Finally, as a school we aim to create an environment that is free from stigma and an education that is accessible for all. Children are never labelled or grouped according to their Pupil Premium status and with the exception of some residentials, all activities that we offer (including after-school clubs and trips), are completely free of charge. Through the school's BELIEVE values and our learning GEMS, we aim to create a culture that recognises the often significant and complex challenges that our disadvantaged pupils face, whilst at the same time maintaining the very highest aspirations and expectations for them.

You can find lots of information about Pupil Premium *here*. [insert weblink <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>].