

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2021 to 2022 academic year) 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 the effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Stepgates Community School
Number of pupils in school	226
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	21%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2021 - 2022
Date this statement was published	September 2021
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2022
Statement authorised by	Tara Ford
Pupil premium lead	Tara Ford
Governor lead	Mike Pope

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£59,180
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£7437
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year	£66,617

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school, the locality and the subsequent challenges faced. This alongside research conducted by the EEF. Common barriers to learning for disadvantaged children can be: less support at home, weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, more frequent behaviour difficulties and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied and there is no “one size fits all”.

The above has been made even worse due to disruption from COVID-19 over the last two years. This has had a further negative impact on many of our children. Many of our children are entitled to pupil premium and as evidence shows, challenges to achievement are prevalent amongst these families. Classes having to isolate from September 2020, following contact with COVID-19 caused a huge amount of missed learning. In January 2021 school was closed until March 2021 (apart from to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers) and Remote Learning took place. When the children returned to school the curriculum was adapted again, with a continued high focus on well-being. We were very aware that some of our children had not fared well during lockdown for a variety of reasons as outlined above and our aim is to now overcome these.

We believe that with the correct support all pupils can achieve their full potential, as long as the provision meets their needs. We are looking to establish, recover and rebuild over the next year in terms of wellbeing, curriculum and learning for all our children, including the more vulnerable.

Our ultimate objectives are to:

- Remove barriers to learning created by poverty, family circumstance and background
- Narrow the attainment gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged counterparts both within school and nationally
- Ensure pupils are able to read fluently and with good understanding to enable them to access the breadth of the curriculum
- Develop confidence in their ability to communicate effectively in a wide range of contexts
- Enable pupils to look after their social and emotional wellbeing and to develop resilience.
- Access a wide range of opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world

Achieving our objectives:

In order to achieve our objectives and overcome identified barriers to learning we will:

- Provide all teachers with high quality CPD to ensure that pupils access effective quality first teaching
- Provide targeted intervention and support to quickly address identified gaps in learning including the use of small group work, 1:1 tuition
- Target funding to ensure that all pupils have access to trips, residentials, first hand learning experiences & therefore provide opportunities for all pupils to participate in enrichment activities
- Provide appropriate nurture support to support pupils in their emotional and social development.

This is not an exhaustive list and strategies will change and develop based on the needs of individuals.

Key Principals:

We will ensure that effective teaching, learning and assessment meets the needs of all pupils through the rigorous analysis of data. Class teachers will identify specific intervention and support for individual pupils which will be reviewed at least termly. Alongside academic support, we will ensure that those pupils who have social, emotional and mental health needs will access high quality provision from appropriately trained adults.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Recovery learning needs to take place particularly for those PPG children who have been most effected following school and bubble closures.
2	Many pupils entering reception have had a lack of nursery provision. The PPG is most affected. Socialisation opportunities and learning have been missed. Children on entry are low in PSED. New foundation stage curriculum needs to be embedded this year. Training for new members of the EYFS team.
3	PPG are often identified as having emotional and social difficulties. This prevents engagement with learning and has a detrimental effect on their academic progress. These pupils need to be supported through a variety of methods and resources, so that they are ready to learn.
4	The behaviour of some pupils deteriorated during lockdown (including their learning behaviours). Expectations need to be reset to ensure pupils engage with learning and an socialise safely and inclusively.
5	Pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium are not attaining as well as other pupils, particularly in reading/maths. They need to be supported to increase understanding and build knowledge.
6	Attendance rates for some children from the PPG are low. This reduces their school hours and causes them to miss out academically and socially fall behind. Persistent Absence (PA) is high amongst PPG. These parents and pupils need to be specifically targeted.
7	Pupils do not have equal access to trips and extra-curricular activities or do not have correct equipment because of poverty and family circumstances. These children need to be catered for so they feel included and can access all learning opportunities.

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
Recovery Curriculum in place, children identified and interventions in place to close the gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils engage well with the curriculum • Tutoring is effective and efficient • Pupils make academic progress in specific areas missed during closure • The PSHE/RSE curriculum is embedded and taught • Pupils are ready to undertake the next stage of education
Staff embed new EYFS curriculum. Children's PSED improves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities for PSED in curriculum therefore high pupil engagement
Social and Emotional needs highlighted and support given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils' social and emotional literacy improves. • Pupils are more able to engage with learning and school attendance improves. • ELSA and class teachers report improvement in attitudes • Specific areas of the school are well resourced to support the needs of pupils with social and emotional issues • DSLs are available to support pupils and families alongside social services and other outside agencies • HSLW supports families to help meet their needs
General behaviour and learning behaviour re-established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less incidents where senior leaders are involved • Pupils report that they feel safe in all areas in the school • Pupils are happy in school • Pupils reach their full potential
PPG children attainment and progress raised in line with national data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils eligible for PP make as much progress as 'other' pupils across the school in EYFS and in maths, reading and writing. • Statutory tests in YR, Y1 (phonics) End of KS1 SATs and KS2 SATs do not show a marked difference between pupils in PPG and others. • Teacher assessments through pupil progress and class assessment do not show a marked difference between pupils in PPG group and others.
Increased attendance rates for pupils eligible for PP and lowered persistent absence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of persistent absentees among pupils eligible for PP • Overall PPG attendance improves and is in line with others

Inclusion of pupils eligible for PP in all activities and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pupil will be excluded from taking part in an event due to lack of parental funds. • All pupils are fully equipped for school and activities • All pupils have an adequate amount to eat within the school day. • All pupils will have access to technology at home when required
---	---

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

Budgeted cost: £4,369

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.	Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction: Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1,5
Purchase of 'Little Wandle' 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 (though not necessarily comprehension), particularly for disadvantaged pupils: Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1,5
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: Maths guidance KS 1 and 2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk) The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence: Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3	1,5

CPD in EYFS and baseline screening	Education Endowment Foundation evidence Key Principle 3	2
Recruitment of additional LSA's for small group tuition	Education Endowment Foundation evidence +4	1, 5
ELSA supervision and counselling for pupils as required	Best practice Education Endowment Foundation evidence +4	3
Mental Health and Trauma Training (separately funded by DfE grant)	Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report	2, 3
CPD for teachers in PSHE/RSE and foundation subjects	Ofsted review	1, 4
Recruitment and retention	Best practice	1, 2, 3, 5

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

Budgeted cost: £36,856

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
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 EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1,5
Whole staff training on trauma, mental health, emotional health, attachment with the aim of developing our school ethos and improving behaviour across school.	Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: Behaviour interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	
1:1 support	Education Endowment Foundation evidence +5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tutoring (top up)	Education Endowment Foundation evidence +5/+4	1, 2,5
Interventions – ELSA, Drop in counselling sessions, phonic catch up	Education Endowment Foundation evidence +4/+5	1, 2, 3, 4

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

Budgeted cost: £28,400

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Nurture Course and Boxall Profile training and resourcing	Evidence from UK Nurture Research into Boxall Profile Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report	3
Creating and resourcing specific areas in the school for emotional well-being (The Nurture Room, Rainbow Sensory Room, The Sensory Circuit and Centenary Garden Area, Reflection Area, Safe place in every classroom)	Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report Evidence from other schools Best practice in SEN/D schools	3
Additional supervision and support at break and lunchtimes	Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report Evidence gathered through research at school	4
ELSA & Counsellor support and provision	Internal evidence from SENDCo, Class teachers, ELSA, HSLW & Counsellor Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report	3, 4

	EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report	
Inclusion – funding of trips, breakfast/after school club/food/uniform/milk/swimming/horse riding	Education Endowment Foundation SEL Guidance Report EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report EEF Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools	7
Engage parents and promote the importance of school and learning	Education Endowment Foundation evidence Internal evidence from previously implemented strategies.	6 / 7

Total budgeted cost: £69,625 Additional funding to be taken from budget

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

Desired Outcome	Review
Improve oral language skills for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium especially in Reception and KS1.	<p>Our internal assessments during 2020/21 suggested that the performance of disadvantaged pupils was lower than in the previous year prior to COVID-19, in key areas of the curriculum. Despite being on track during the first year (2018/19), the outcomes we aimed to achieve in our previous strategy by the end of 2020/21 were therefore not fully realised.</p> <p>Our assessment of the reasons for these outcomes points primarily to COVID-19 impact, which disrupted all our subject areas to varying degrees. As evidenced in schools across the country, school closure was most detrimental to our disadvantaged pupils, and they were not able to benefit from our pupil premium funded improvements to teaching and targeted interventions to the degree we had intended.</p> <p>The impact was mitigated by our resolution to maintain a high quality curriculum, including during periods of partial closure, which was aided by use of online resources such as those provided by Oak National Academy.</p> <p>Although overall attendance in 2020/21 was on track, at times when all pupils were expected to attend school, absence among disadvantaged pupils was higher than their peers and persistent absence also higher. These gaps are larger than in previous years, which is why attendance is a focus of our current plan.</p> <p>Our assessments and observations indicated that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly impacted last year, primarily due to COVID-19-related issues. The impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged pupils. We used pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We are building on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.</p>
Higher rates of progress across KS2 for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.	
Pupils eligible for Pupil Premium who are identified as having social and emotional difficulties are supported and feel able to better engage with learning and have improved academic attainment and progress.	
Increased attendance rates for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.	
Pupils eligible for Pupil Premium will be supported for learning at home, enabling them to access learning in school and have improved academic attainment and progress.	
Inclusion of pupils eligible for PP in all activities	
Pupils who are LAC settle quickly and make progress	