



'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'



Pupil Premium Policy

Last Reviewed: January 2025

Review Date: January 2026

PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

At St Mark's CE Primary School, we live by our school Christian vision:

'St Mark's is an inclusive, welcoming and nurturing family where everyone is loved, **RESPECT**ed and valued. We are proud to be recognised as unique individuals, who celebrate diversity within a supportive Christian environment, where all can flourish. We aim to make a positive difference to the world we live in for ourselves and others by following the example of the Good Samaritan.'

We also follow the school's mission statement:

'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'

These are both at the heart of all we do and are underpinned by our school values of **RESPECT** - Responsibility, Equality, Spirituality, Perseverance, Enthusiasm, Commitment and Trust.

We have high aspirations and ambitions for all of our children and we believe that no child should be left behind. We have a clear rationale that the best place to meet the needs of all pupils is through quality first teaching to ensure they make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time benefit the non-disadvantaged pupils in our school.

Background

The Pupil Premium is a government initiative designed to provide additional funding to support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, as research and data consistently show these pupils are more likely to underachieve compared to their peers.

This funding aims to help disadvantaged pupils reach their full potential. Previously, schools received funding based on the percentage of children eligible for free school meals (FSM).

The Pupil Premium now replaces this system, with funding allocated for:

- Pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years.
- Children in care or who have been adopted.
- Children with parents currently serving in the armed forces.

The primary goal of the Pupil Premium is to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

While schools have the autonomy to decide how to use this funding to improve pupil outcomes, they are held accountable for demonstrating its effectiveness in closing the gap and must implement evidence-based strategies to achieve this

The context at St. Mark's CE Primary School

Research shows that pupils who come from more disadvantaged backgrounds have lower attainment overall. Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

- Poor attendance
- Oracy, language, vocabulary and communication (including written communication) needs
- Many families are in the early stages in learning English and may not always be proficient in their home language
- High mobility throughout the school year
- The school has a high turnover of pupils who may have been educated in a different country or have not accessed education previously
- A lack of life experiences, leading to a deficit in the child's cultural capital
- Poverty, leading to general health issues and increased mental health issues.

The expectation is that all pupils make good progress from their starting points and that any gaps in attainment are closed during the child's time at St Mark's CE Primary School.

It is our belief that all children should have equal entitlement and opportunity to a wealth of experiences, which develop skills and abilities, build their resilience and a love for learning. All members of staff and governors accept responsibility for all pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within a stable, consistent and caring environment where children feel safe.

At St Mark's CE Primary School, many pupils face multiple vulnerabilities, including Special Educational Needs (SEN) and English as an Additional Language (EAL). There is a significant overlap between pupils with SEND and those eligible for Pupil Premium, with a high proportion of SEND pupils also identified as eligible for Pupil Premium and/or having EAL.

Objectives for 2024-25

The school's Pupil Premium Strategy Statement, detailing the allocation, use, and impact of the funding, is published on the school website.

The Local Governing Board is dedicated to the strategic use of Pupil Premium funding to effectively identify and address barriers that hinder the progress of eligible pupils, ensuring they achieve their full potential.

Key priorities include:

- **Evidence-Based Decisions:** Funding allocations are informed by research and professional expertise to ensure effective outcomes.
- **Quality First Teaching:** High quality teaching is prioritised across all classes to improve outcomes for all pupils, with a focus on Pupil Premium eligible pupils.
- **Professional Development:** Staff delivering strategies and interventions receive targeted training and support to address barriers to learning effectively.
- **Language Acquisition Support:** Targeted support is provided for pupils acquiring English as an additional language, including those new to English.
- **Accelerated Progress:** Strategies aim to close educational gaps and remove barriers such as social and emotional needs to enable accelerated progress for eligible pupils.
- **Specialist Provision for SEND:** Pupil needs are assessed accurately, and specialist

provisions, such as outreach support from Watermill and Kemball Special Schools (part of the Orchard Community Trust), are implemented for SEND pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.

- **Impact Evaluation:** All interventions are regularly evaluated for effectiveness and value for money.
- **Improving Literacy:** Emphasis is placed on enhancing comprehension skills and vocabulary acquisition.
- **Attendance Improvement:** Targeted efforts are made to ensure attendance rates for Pupil Premium eligible pupils exceed 96%.
- **Broadening Experiences:** Educational and residential visits are funded to enrich pupils' learning and understanding of the world.
- **Challenge in Lessons:** Lessons are designed to provide appropriate challenge to maximise progress for all pupils.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Awareness and support for pupils' health and wellbeing are integral to the strategy.

The Local Governing Board monitors the needs and progress of Pupil Premium ensuring that funding is effectively targeted and barriers to learning are addressed.

The school and the Local Governing Board also recognise that not all pupils who are 'socially disadvantaged' are registered or qualify for free school meals. The Governors reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils, which the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged e.g. Asylum seekers or refugees to enable them to thrive.

The range of provision

- Facilitating pupils' access to education through targeted support and resources.
- Providing access to well-designed and appropriate intervention strategies.
- Ensuring pupils benefit from a well-planned, rich, and progressive curriculum.
- Offering additional teaching and learning opportunities tailored to individual needs.
- Delivering alternative support and targeted interventions for pupils requiring extra assistance.
- Enabling participation in trips, educational visits and residential experiences.
- Providing access to after school clubs and extracurricular activities.
- Offering meals, including breakfast, when needed.
- Supporting more able pupils with opportunities to extend and challenge their learning.

The Pupil Premium Leader, in collaboration with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, will oversee an ongoing programme of targeted support for socially disadvantaged pupils. This provision is subject to regular oversight by the Local Governing Board.

Reporting

The Pupil Premium Leader, Headteacher, and Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for producing a termly report for the Local Governing Board, which will include:

- **Progress Monitoring:** An analysis of progress made by socially disadvantaged pupils in closing the attainment gap, broken down by year group.
- **Provision Overview:** A summary of the support and interventions implemented since the previous meeting.

- **Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation:** An assessment of the impact of specific provisions on pupil progress compared to other forms of support, demonstrating value for money.

The Local Governing Board of St. Mark's CE Primary School will ensure the publication of an annual statement for parents, detailing how Pupil Premium funding has been allocated to address and close the attainment gap for socially disadvantaged pupils. This statement will comply with the Department for Education's reporting requirements.

Success Criteria

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated based on the school's ability to 'close the gap' between socially disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Targets will be set and reviewed annually as part of a three year strategy.

Success Criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy:

- **Effective Early Intervention:** Timely identification and support for socially disadvantaged pupils to address barriers to learning.
- **Strong Relationships:** Positive and trusting relationships with all pupils and their families to promote engagement and wellbeing.
- **Academic Excellence:** Strategic use of Pupil Premium funding to ensure disadvantaged pupils achieve academic success, preparing them for the next stage of education and future opportunities.
- **Inclusive Learning Environment:** A supportive environment that provides equitable access to necessary resources, regardless of socio-economic background.
- **Cultural and Enrichment Opportunities:** Access to a diverse range of opportunities, including cultural capital and enrichment activities, to enhance educational experiences and broaden horizons.
- **Whole School Responsibility:** A unified approach where all staff and governors share accountability for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and maintain high expectations of their potential.
- **Evidence Based Practices:** Implementation of research informed strategies to effectively address disadvantage.
- **Excellent Pastoral Care:** Robust pastoral systems to support the emotional, social, and wellbeing needs of disadvantaged pupils.

This policy aims to foster an inclusive, high achieving school culture that empowers disadvantaged pupils to reach their full potential.

Appeals

Any appeal in connection with the allocation of the Pupil Premium funding will be dealt with through the Local Governing Board appeals panel.

Signed:

Headteacher

Signed:

Co-Chair of the Local Governing Board:

Date: January 2025

Review date: January 2026