



*'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'*



## **Pupil Premium Policy**

**Last Reviewed:** December 2023

**Review Date:** December 2024

## **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, **RESPECTED** 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, which targets extra money at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds; as historical research and data show that these pupils are more likely to underachieve compared to their peers.

This additional funding (Pupil Premium) is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their potential. In the past, schools received additional funding linked to the percentage of children entitled to free school meals (FSM), and Pupil Premium replaces this funding. Pupil Premium funding is based on children who have registered for a free school meal at any point in the last 6 years, children who are in care or adopted and children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces.

The aim of the Pupil Premium funding is to 'close the gap' between the achievements of disadvantaged pupils and that of non-disadvantaged pupils.

The Government is continuing to allow schools to decide how this money will be used to improve pupil achievement, but schools are accountable for 'closing the gap' and therefore need to demonstrate that they have employed effective strategies using this funding.

### **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.

Due to the context at St Mark's CE Primary School, pupils often have multiple vulnerabilities, which include SEN and English as an Additional Language (EAL). There is a strong correlation between SEN and pupil's eligible for Pupil Premium. In addition, a high percentage of the pupils identified as SEN are eligible for Pupil Premium and/or have EAL.

### **Objectives for 2023-24**

Pupil Premium information is outlined in the 3 year Pupil Premium strategy which is published on the school's website.

The Local Governing Board are committed to allocate Pupil Premium funding in order to address and attempt to overcome the barriers which prevent pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding from making good progress;

- Evidence from research and professional expertise is used to make decisions.
- Quality first teaching strategies are used in all classes to ensure that teaching is good across the school which helps to improve outcomes for all children but especially children who are eligible for Pupil Premium.
- Professional development, training and support is provided for staff, who are delivering strategies and interventions to children who have barriers to learning.
- Support language acquisition for all pupils and in particular those for whom English is an additional language or are new to English.
- Ensure pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding make accelerated progress by addressing gaps in their education and remove barriers to learning e.g. social and emotional needs.
- Improve the progress of SEN children eligible for Pupil Premium funding by ensuring that their needs are correctly assessed and specialist provision is implemented where required e.g. Special School Outreach packages.
- Evaluate interventions across the school to ensure impact and good value for money.
- Improve comprehension skills and vocabulary acquisition.
- Improve attendance for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding (>96%).
- Ensure pupils are provided with opportunities to enhance their learning and

- experience of the world e.g. educational visits, residential visits.
- Ensure that all pupils are challenged effectively in lessons to maximise progress.
- Raise awareness of health and wellbeing.

The Local Governing Board will ensure that the needs of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding are identified and addressed through the termly inclusion and pupil progress meetings.

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;
- Access to appropriate and well-designed intervention strategies;
- Facilitating pupils access to a well-planned, rich and progressive curriculum;
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities;
- Alternative support and intervention;
- Access to trips, visitors and residential visits;
- Access to after school clubs;
- Access to meals when required, including breakfast;
- Additional support for more able pupils.

The Pupil Premium Leader, in conjunction with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, will maintain an ongoing programme of support for socially disadvantaged pupils. This will be subject to the oversight of the Local Governing Board's Curriculum and Standard's Committee.

### **Reporting**

It will be the responsibility of the Pupil Premium Leader, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to produce a termly report for the Local Governing Board on:

- The progress made towards diminishing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision that was made during the term since the last meeting.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

The Local Governing Board of St. Mark's CE Primary School will ensure that there is an annual statement to the parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'closing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department for Education as necessary.

### **Success Criteria**

The evaluation of this policy is based on how effectively the school can 'diminish the gap' between socially disadvantaged pupils and all pupils. Targets will be identified and

evaluated annually as part of a three year strategy.

The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for socially disadvantaged children is effective.
- Have positive relationships with all pupils and families.
- Use Pupil Premium funding to achieve academic excellence for all pupils who are disadvantaged so they are ready for the next stage of their education and beyond.
- The learning environment is supportive of disadvantaged pupils' needs ensuring they have access to the resources they need regardless of their socio-economic background.
- Have access to a range of opportunities including cultural capital and enrichment opportunities to complement and enhance their educational experience.
- Adopt a whole school approach in which all staff and governors take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve.
- Research evidence informs approaches to addressing disadvantage.
- Excellent pastoral care for all disadvantaged pupils.

### **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:** December 2023

**Review date:** September 2024