



# Pupil Premium Policy 2024/2025

## Document provenance

This policy was approved by:

Approver: Education Committee

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ELT Owner: National Director of  
Primary / National Director of  
Secondary Education

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*Unless there are legislative or regulatory changes in the interim, this policy will be reviewed annually. Should no substantive changes be required at that point, the policy will move to the next review cycle.*

## E-ACT Pupil Premium Policy 2024/2025

### 1. Introduction and purpose

- 1.1 The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) was introduced in April 2011 by the coalition government to address the gap in attainment between students deemed 'disadvantaged' and their peers. Children are considered disadvantaged if:
  - eligible for free school meals (or have been eligible in the last six years, known as 'Ever 6');
  - looked after, including continuously for more than six months; or
  - a parent works in the armed forces.
- 1.2 The pupil premium is paid to pupils between the ages of 5 and 16 and it should be spent in ways that close the gap in attainment between these students and their peers.
- 1.3 The 2024/2025 rate of payment is:
  - £1480 per FSM (Free School Meals) or Ever 6 FSM pupil in reception to year 6;
  - £1050 per FSM or Ever 6 FSM pupil in year 7 to year 11;
  - £2570 per looked-after child (who has been looked after for more than a day, has been adopted, has been in care); and
  - £340 per service child or Ever 3 service child.
- 1.4 The pupil premium is paid to academies as they are best placed to assess what additional provision their pupils need.
- 1.5 Ofsted inspections report on how academies use of the funding affects:
  - the attainment of the pupils who attract the funding;
  - the progress made by these pupils;
  - the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

### 2. Key principles

- 2.1 Our academy has the following key principles in relation to the expenditure of pupil premium funds:
  - Expectations are high for all pupils. We do not equate deprivation and challenge with low ability.
  - Not all pupils who qualify for FSM are socially disadvantaged and not all socially disadvantaged pupils qualify or are registered for FSM. We therefore focus on the needs and levels of all pupils.
  - All teaching and learning strategies are designed to meet the needs of individuals and groups. Additional support is integrated into the teaching programme.
  - Research, trial and self-evaluation are used to allocate the funding to activities that are most likely to have an impact on achievement.
  - In providing support we will not socially isolate pupils. Therefore, it is likely that all groups receiving additional support will be a mix of FSM and non-FSM pupils.

### **3 Making decisions regarding the use of Pupil Premium**

- 3.1 When making decisions about using pupil premium funding it is important to consider the context of the academy and subsequent challenges faced.
- 3.2 Common barriers for FSM children can be less support at home, weak language skills, and a lack of confidence, more frequent behavioural difficulties, and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied.
- 3.3 In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our academy is used solely for its intended purpose.
- 3.4 We also recognise that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has an element of deprivation funding included in it to address the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils. 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
  - Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered as 'low ability' because of their social circumstances
  - Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used our Pupil Premium through our Pupil Premium Strategy Statement, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference
  - Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not a homogenous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account
  - Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time-limited way.
  - Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.

### **4 Roles and responsibilities**

- 4.1 We expect all members of our academy community, particularly staff and governors to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils.

*The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)*

- 4.2 The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for implementing this policy.

They will ensure that:

- all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils;
- all 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 narrowing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the academy;
- all strategies are evaluated as robustly as possible to ensure that the approach applied is having the desired effect.

To do this effectively, the Headteacher and senior leaders, where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies being used, such as that outlined in the 2019 Education Endowment Foundation, Guide to the Pupil Premium.

4.3 It will be the responsibility of the Headteacher to include the following information in the report for governance through the termly Academy Review Days, which in turn will be reported at the termly Challenge Days:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupil;
- An outline of the provision that has been made since the last annual report;
- 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.

### **Teaching and Support Staff**

4.4 Teaching and support staff will:

- Maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability';
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive;
- Plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed, and improvements maintained;
- Support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and 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 a proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.

4.5 We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and roles. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate the progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

4.6 The Executive Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have an important

role in ensuring our academy complies with legislation and this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing gaps is implemented.

- 4.7 Through regular review days and performance reviews the Executive Leadership team will:
- At least termly, keep our work in narrowing the gaps under review so that they can monitor the use of the Pupil Premium. In doing this, the Executive Leadership Team (when meeting monthly and report to the Trustees Education Committee) will consider a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative (case studies, views, surveys etc.) data as evidence of impact.
  - Ensure that, as part of their scrutiny, monitoring and evaluation, the impact of each selected strategy in relation to the expenditure of the pupil premium is assessed regularly, and that appropriate changes are made in a timely manner where impact is not being evidenced.
  - At the end of the academic year, the Education Director, through the review and feedback meetings, will ensure that there is an annual statement prepared by the Headteacher and issued to parents, via the website, on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issues of narrowing the gaps in our academy and the impact this has had.
  - Ensure that the Headteacher has met statutory requirements in publishing key information relating to the use of Pupil Premium on the academy website. 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 Service Premium cannot be identified.

## **5 Impact**

- 5.1 We regularly measure the attainment and progress of all students with particular reference to all our vulnerable groups.
- 5.2 The Senior Leadership Team, SENCo (SEN co-ordinator), our Heads of Year/Phase, and our Heads of Department evaluate the needs of students and the outcomes of interventions as well as the needs for any additional support that could be put in place.
- 5.3 There is strong communication between pastoral support and curriculum provision to ensure all our students are tracked carefully and their needs are met.
- 5.4 Interventions are logged and progress is monitored to evaluate impact.
- 5.5 The Education Director is kept informed through regular scrutiny, challenge, and support of the Headteacher of this crucial area of work and parents can access information through the academy website.
- 5.6 Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and

adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the academy is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration the increased funding that becomes available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

## **6 Outcomes**

- 6.1 Students eligible for Pupil Premium will have been identified and monitored
- 6.2 Pupil Premium students will have achieved above the national average and gaps in attainment will have narrowed.
- 6.3 Students will have developed confidence and independence and have been supported with aspirations and ambitions.

## **7 Disseminating the Policy**

- 7.1 This pupil premium policy along with the details of the academy strategy and evaluation will be published:
  - On our website (with paper copies available on request in the academy office)
  - In any staff handbook /guidance documents and as part of induction for new staff.