

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Pupil Premium Policy

Last reviewed November 2024



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Pupil Premium Policy

The DfE has given us the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs. However, we as a school are accountable for the use of this additional funding.

THE PUPIL PREMIUM

The Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools on the basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM') and Service Children including those who were eligible for the Service child premium at any point in the last three years (known as 'Ever 3 Service Child'). Students in care, who have been looked after by local authorities for more than six months also continue to qualify for the Pupil Premium. The Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

The Pupil Premium was initially introduced in April 2011 when schools received an additional £488 for each of their pupils eligible for free school meals. In April 2012 this was increased to £623 and from April 2013 it was increased to £900 per eligible pupil. For the year of 2024 to 2025 the funding is £1480. Pupils previously looked after by a local authority or other state care £2570. Children of service personnel receive a lower amount of £340 for 2024/2025.

PURPOSE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline how we will ensure that the Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level. They capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

HOW WE WILL MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE USE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

- ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose. We also recognise that the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) has an element of deprivation funding included in it to address the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.
- 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.

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- be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.
- encourage take up of Pupil Premium by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming Pupil Premium. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.
- be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of Pupil Premium does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.
- ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium, by the school and governing body.
- recognise the fact that Pupil Premium pupils are not a homogeneous 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.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY

In developing this policy we have taken into account our statutory responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Further information is available in our school's Equalities Policy. The overlap with our Equalities Policy is in relation to how we are meeting the needs of our pupils who are covered under the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act. Some of these pupils, especially minority ethnic, English is an additional language,

Special Educational Needs and pupils with disabilities can suffer from higher rates of disadvantage and therefore can have higher rates of eligibility for FSM. Where this is the case, we shall take these additional needs into account.

When developing this Pupil Premium Policy, we have also taken into account the Ofsted Inspection Framework 2016, which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on reducing the differences in achievement. We also note that Ofsted has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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THE HEAD AND THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and SENCo are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. They will also ensure that 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 school.

It will be the responsibility of the SENCo to include the following information in the termly monitoring and evaluation report for Governors: the progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils 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, the Governors of the Resources Committee will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a termly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. They will also monitor and evaluate to see that it is providing value for money. This will be through analysis of internal and external data e.g. Analysing School Performance (ASP).

TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF

Through classroom teaching and additional support strategies, teaching and support staff will:

- maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low achievement',
- 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 proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.
- provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.
- evaluate the impact of Pupil Premium spend within their area of responsibility

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GOVERNING BODY

Our governing body has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps is implemented.

The Quality and Standards Committee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy. Members of the Resources Committee will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a half termly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. They will also check to see that it is providing value for money.

The Resources Committee is responsible for ensuring that the school is challenged and held accountable to planned Pupil Premium grant spending across the school. This includes staffing provision as well as the purchasing of resources to support the accelerated progress of children for whom the Pupil Premium grant is intended.

Governors are invited to attend half termly Pupil Progress meetings to monitor and ensure that identified disadvantaged children receiving free school meals are discussed and appropriate interventions are tailored and delivered according to need.

Our governing body 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 monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the governing body will take into account a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative (Pupil Progress meetings, case studies, views, surveys etc.) data as evidence of impact.

At the end of the academic year, our Governors will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of narrowing the gaps in our school and the impact this has had.

KEY CONTACTS

Anita Philbrook, Headteacher

Pier Anscombe, Acting Senior Assistant Headteacher

Simon Strange, SENCO

Kim Breckell, School Business Manager

VACANT, Pupil Premium Governor

MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE POLICY

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Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed every three years, and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration the increased funding that becomes available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies we are using.

DISSEMINATING THE POLICY

This Pupil Premium policy along with the details of actions will be published:

- on our website (with paper copies available on request in the school office)
- in the staff handbook and as part of induction for new staff
- as a summary in the school brochure

We will also use other methods and occasions such as parents' evenings and assemblies, as appropriate to share information about the Pupil Premium.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Any appeals against this policy can be made through the governor's complaints procedure.