



## Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the **2023 to 2024** 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	St George's CE Primary School
Number of pupils in school	76
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	18%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended</b> )	September 2021- July 2024 Current Year 2023-2024
Date this statement was published	December 2023
Date on which it will be reviewed	October
Statement authorised by	Governors
Pupil premium lead	Katy Astle, Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Richard Purchase, Chair of Governors

### Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£17,601.25
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£2,000
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b> If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£19,601.25



## Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

### Statement of intent

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas and like the rest of our school community, '**Live Learning, Love Learning**'. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker or are classified as young carers. We will think about how vulnerable pupils in a small village school are supported to develop their cultural capital and life experiences as well as offering a wide range of learning experiences. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

High-quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged pupils require the most support. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time will benefit the non-disadvantaged pupils in our school. Implicit in the intended outcomes detailed below, is the intention that non-disadvantaged pupils' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our strategy is also integral to wider school plans for education recovery, notably in its targeted support through the National Tutoring Programme for pupils whose education has been worst affected, including non-disadvantaged pupils.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

### Challenges

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



Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers.
2	Internal assessments indicate that Maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.
3	It has been identified that improved progress in reading, writing and mathematics for pupils who are combined Pupil Premium and SEND across all year groups is needed.
4	<p>Our assessments and observations indicate that the education and well-being of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been impacted by partial school closures to a greater extent than for other pupils. These findings are supported by national studies.</p> <p>This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations, especially in Maths.</p> <p>This is also the case for vulnerable children who were able to access school as they struggled with the changes in routines and lack of peer support.</p>
5	<p>Our assessments (including wellbeing survey), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, notably due to a lack of enrichment opportunities during school closure and being able to mix with other children beyond their immediate peer group. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment.</p> <p>Teacher referrals for support have increased during the pandemic, as have referrals for external support from specialist teachers/Education Psychologist. 11 pupils (7 of whom are disadvantaged) currently require additional support with social and emotional needs.</p>
6	<p>Our attendance data over the past 3 years shows that the gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils absences is decreasing but attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 1-2% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>18% of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to 2% of their peers during 2021-2022. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.</p>



## 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
Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 80% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved Maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	KS2 Maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 80% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• qualitative data from pupil voice, pupil and parent questionnaires and teacher observations</li> <li>• for any incidents of bullying to be resolved quickly.</li> </ul>
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils, with a focus on persistent absenteeism.	<p>Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 4%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 2%.</li> <li>• the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 10% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 4% lower than their peers.</li> </ul>
To further develop all pupil's personal development, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Enrichment activities and a wide range of opportunities/experiences in place for all children with a focus on disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Evidence will show that there are significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils</p>



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 (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £ 16,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Smaller class sizes for teaching for the year 2022-2023	<a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reducing-class-size">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reducing-class-size</a>	1,2,3,4
Continue to improve reading comprehension teaching and purchase of books to support vulnerable pupils	<a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies</a>	1,3,4
Implement whole school writing scheme to develop writing for all children, especially disadvantaged. Talk for Writing uses collaborative learning approaches to develop writing for a range of different purposes.	<a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk">Collaborative learning approaches   EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</a>	1,3,4
Full implementation of a <a href="#">DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme</a> 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: <a href="#">Phonics   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a>	1
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	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: <a href="#">Maths guidance KS 1 and 2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>	2,3



and CPD (including Teaching for Mastery training).	The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence: <a href="#">Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3</a>	
Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning.  SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.	There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers): <a href="#">EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</a>	5,6
Development of early years use of communication and language approaches.	<a href="#">Communication and language approaches   EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</a>	1, 2,3,4, 5

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

Budgeted cost: £ 5,640.25

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks: <a href="#">Phonics   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a>	1
Additional Maths sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further support.	Interventions and boosters targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind in small groups:	2,3,4



	<a href="#">Small group tuition   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a>	
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## Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ 3,188

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Whole staff training on behaviour management and anti-bullying approaches with the aim of developing our school ethos and improving behaviour across school.	Continue with training programme for all staff – ‘Therapeutic Thinking’. Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: <a href="#">Behaviour interventions   EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</a>	5.6
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE’s <a href="#">Improving School Attendance</a> advice.  This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures to improve attendance.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.	6
Subsidising trips, after-school clubs, uniform for pupil premium children in order to enable them to have the same experiences/opportunities as their peers.	Vulnerable pupils are less likely to have had a wide range of rich opportunities in their trips and visits and families may struggle to pay for uniform, trips and after-school clubs.  Extending residential trips not just for Year 6. Year 4, 5 and 6 to attend a residential in year 2022-2023.	4, 5
Utilising a <a href="#">DfE grant to train a senior mental health lead</a> .	The training we will select will focus on the training needs identified through the online tool: to develop our understanding of our pupils’ needs, give pupils a voice	4, 5

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	in how we address wellbeing, and support more effective collaboration with parents.	
Contingency fund for acute issues.	Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	

**Total budgeted cost: £25,828.25**



## 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 **2023 to 2024** academic year.

<p>Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p><b>End of KS2:</b></p> <p>At KS2, 100% of PP pupils achieved the expected standard in reading in the KS2 Statutory assessments. There was +5.2 value added in progress scores for our Year 6 pupils. This is above national average. This is also 20.7% higher than the national Non-Disadvantaged cohort at 79.3%.</p> <p>Pupils in Year 6 in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) achieved a higher standardized score than non-FSM:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="790 1097 1428 1209"> <tr> <td>FSM6</td> <td>4</td> <td>108.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not FSM6</td> <td>13</td> <td>106.3</td> </tr> </table> <p>The school's gap to Non-Disadvantaged pupils nationally has improved by 32.3% from -11.6% in 2022/23, to +20.7% in 2023/24.</p> <p>Our Disadvantaged cohort's Reading Expected Standard has increased by 33.3% from 66.7% in 2022/23, to 100.0% in 2023/24.</p> <p>The Disadvantaged pupils are in percentile 1 for Reading Expected Standard when compared to other schools.</p> <p><b>Year 1 – 5:</b></p> <p>Interventions, such as Lexia, Toe by Toe, Doodle English and precision teaching were used across the school to support children's reading and phonics.</p> <p>PP children in Year 1 all passed the Phonics screening check.</p>	FSM6	4	108.0	Not FSM6	13	106.3
FSM6	4	108.0					
Not FSM6	13	106.3					



	<p>Further work needs to be implemented to support pupil premium children, who are also on the school's SEND register.</p>
<p>Improved Maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.</p>	<p><b>End of KS2:</b>                  At KS2, 40% PP pupils achieved the expected standard in Maths. This is 39% lower than the national Non-Disadvantaged cohort at 79%.</p> <p>The gap to Non-Disadvantaged pupils nationally has improved by 6.9% from -45.9% in 2022/23, to -39.0% in 2023/24. The pupil premium cohort's Maths Expected Standard has increased by 6.7% from 33.3% in 2022/23, to 40% in 2023/24.</p> <p>The Disadvantaged pupil(s) are in percentile 80 for Maths Expected Standard when compared to other schools.</p>



<p>To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>This has been achieved through staff improved relationships with pupils, increased ELSA support, Mental Health first aiders support, wellbeing assemblies, outdoor learning activities.</p>
<p>To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils, with a focus on persistent absenteeism.</p>	<p>The school's disadvantaged cohort had an Overall Absence of 6.4%. This is 1.8% higher than the national Non-Disadvantaged cohort at 4.6%.</p> <p>23.1% of Disadvantaged pupils are persistently absent. This is 12.0% higher than the national Non-Disadvantaged cohort at 11.1%. The Disadvantaged pupils are in percentile 46 for persistent absence when compared to other schools.</p> <p>Attendance reviews held and plans put in place to improve attendance for persistent absentees. Inclusion panel meeting held with Council Inclusion lead to address persistent absentees. Fines were issued to present absentees who took unauthorized holidays during the school year.</p>
<p>To further develop all pupil's personal development, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>SCARF PSHE scheme is now fully embedded, with annual workshops led by experienced staff and regular assemblies focusing on additional elements of the SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) curriculum. Provided workshops on Maypole dancing, Easter Journey day, Science dome. Improved lunchtime and after-school club offerings, prioritising attendance from disadvantaged pupils.</p>

## Externally provided programmes

*Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England*



Programme	Provider
N/A	

## Service pupil premium funding (optional)

*For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:*

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	Our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is used to provide emotional wellbeing support to any service children. The support is available all year round but is more heavily invested should any periods of deployment take place.
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	Teachers observed improvements in wellbeing amongst service children.



## Further information (optional)

Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:

- continuing to develop Quality First Teaching (QFT) provision
- embedding more effective practice around feedback. [EEF evidence](#) demonstrates this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- within the next 3 years, utilising a [DfE grant to train a senior mental health lead](#). The training we will select will focus on the training needs identified through the online tool: to develop our understanding of our pupils' needs, give pupils a voice in how we address wellbeing, and support more effective collaboration with parents.
- offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration. Activities will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising. Disadvantaged pupils will be encouraged and supported to participate, and will also have discounted fees to attend these clubs.

### Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we evaluated why activity undertaken in previous years had not had the degree of impact that we had expected.

We triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, engagement in class book scrutiny, conversations with parents, pupil voice and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils. We also used the EEF's families of schools' database to view the performance of disadvantaged pupils in schools similar to ours. Over the next three years, we plan to visit other small schools who have proven outstanding practise in supporting disadvantaged pupils.

We looked at a number of reports, studies and research papers about effective use of pupil premium, the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.

We used the [EEF's implementation guidance](#) to help us develop our strategy, particularly the 'explore' phase to help us diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.

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We plan to ensure there is a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils.