

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 Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy
Number of pupils in school	181
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	46 children = 25%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2023-2024 2024-2025 2025-2026
Date this statement was published	September
Date on which it was updated and reviewed	July 2025
Statement authorised by	Headteacher and Chair of Governors.
Pupil premium lead	Mr J Leech
Governor / Trustee lead	Mrs L Norton

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£61262.04
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£61262.04

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

St Mary's wants to ensure that all children across the academy are supported in their academic, social and emotional development. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to provide additional support for our disadvantaged children, based upon their specific needs.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and those from challenging backgrounds. 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.

The school will develop a school led tutoring approach, supporting children who have fallen behind or who require additional support in accessing their age appropriate curriculum.

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	Our assessments for reading outcomes for PP children were lower than those from non-PP backgrounds. In 2023-24, the breakdown for each class are below (please note classes are listed as September 2024 classes). <table><tr><th>Class</th><th>PP ARE</th><th>Non PP ARE</th></tr><tr><td>Class 2</td><td>100%</td><td>91%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 3</td><td>67%</td><td>59%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 4</td><td>60%</td><td>74%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 5</td><td>64%</td><td>90%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 6</td><td>86%</td><td>64%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 7</td><td>86%</td><td>100%</td></tr></table>	Class	PP ARE	Non PP ARE	Class 2	100%	91%	Class 3	67%	59%	Class 4	60%	74%	Class 5	64%	90%	Class 6	86%	64%	Class 7	86%	100%
Class	PP ARE	Non PP ARE																				
Class 2	100%	91%																				
Class 3	67%	59%																				
Class 4	60%	74%																				
Class 5	64%	90%																				
Class 6	86%	64%																				
Class 7	86%	100%																				
2	The assessments have shown that the writing levels for our PP children in 2023 - 24 were lower than those for the non-PP children; <table><tr><th>Class</th><th>PP ARE</th><th>Non PP ARE</th></tr><tr><td>Class 2</td><td>17%</td><td>65%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 3</td><td>0%</td><td>35%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 4</td><td>60%</td><td>62%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 5</td><td>36%</td><td>75%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 6</td><td>43%</td><td>57%</td></tr><tr><td>Class 7</td><td>43%</td><td>100%</td></tr></table>	Class	PP ARE	Non PP ARE	Class 2	17%	65%	Class 3	0%	35%	Class 4	60%	62%	Class 5	36%	75%	Class 6	43%	57%	Class 7	43%	100%
Class	PP ARE	Non PP ARE																				
Class 2	17%	65%																				
Class 3	0%	35%																				
Class 4	60%	62%																				
Class 5	36%	75%																				
Class 6	43%	57%																				
Class 7	43%	100%																				
3	24% of PP children are in the bottom 20% for reading, compared to 14% of non-PP children.																					
4	In discussions with children it has been suggested that those from disadvantaged backgrounds were not attending out of school clubs due to financial constraints unlike their non-disadvantaged peers.																					
5	All children have missed considerable time in school due to the pandemic, however our disadvantaged children have been significantly impacted. This has been demonstrated, through internal surveys, in the increase of referrals to the school ELSA requesting support for emotional wellbeing.																					
6	Our attendance data from the last academic year indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils was 95.4%, compared to 95.9% for the whole school and 95.5% for the non- PP children. Our assessments and observations show that the attendance difference of almost 5% could impact negatively on the progress of the disadvantaged children in the school.																					

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
Provide access to tailored phonics input for all children, including any appropriate intervention, to enable the expected standard in phonics (and reading) to be met.	KS1 Phonics Screening outcomes show that disadvantaged children met the expected standard in line with non-disadvantaged peers by the end of 2024/2025.
To achieve significant progress (from their starting points) for our disadvantaged children by the end of KS2 in writing.	KS2 writing outcomes for disadvantaged children is in line with non-disadvantaged children in 2024/25.
Improved reading attainment for our disadvantaged children at the end of KS2 through targeted intervention strategies.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 are in line with their non-disadvantaged counterparts.
Improved access for disadvantaged children to clubs and extra-curricular provisions throughout the academic year.	Attendance at clubs by disadvantaged children in line with non-disadvantaged children by July 2025.
To create a mental health and wellbeing Ambassadors (students).	Ambassadors trained and in place by Lent 2025.

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: £48,150

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Enhancement of delivery of RWI (all staff are trained) to improve early reading across KS1 and sustain progress throughout KS2 in order to meet national targets.	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: Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF EYFS lead, Phonics lead and new TA to attend RWI training (Sept 2024).	3 + 5
Embed and develop the Talk for Writing approach so that all relevant staff are aware of the importance of phonetic strategies in the teaching of early writing skills in order to meet national targets at the end of KS1 and KS2.	Talk for Writing has been adopted by the school due to it being a well thought out approach to the teaching of writing at a primary school level. Education Endowment Foundation EEF Oracy . Further endorsed by Claire Oberman DFE .	2
Quality first teaching. Senior Teacher to complete the NPQLTD. NQT to complete RQT training through Leicestershire and Rutland teaching school hub. EYFS lead to complete NPQEY qualification	The EEF states that quality teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve pupil attainment. Education Endowment Fund DFE approved qualifications in NPQ for SEND to be completed by the school. Further enhance the leadership and provision in EYFS.	All

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

Budgeted cost: £10200

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional reading sessions targeted at those who require further reading support. This will be delivered using Reading Plus and 1:1 reading support from teacher/ teaching assistant.	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind. DfE validated systematic synthetic phonics programme EEF RWI study	3 + 5
Small Group interventions led by Teaching Assistants. These will include diagnostic assessments and tracking throughout.	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind. Small groups: Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1 + 5
Reading Plus, TT Rockstars	Prior to purchasing, its suitability was discussed with other Headteachers in the trust to ensure alignment with the profile of the school and effectiveness in meeting local need.	1

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ 2912.04

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Improving School Attendance advice. This will involve KS2 staff delivering a session on the importance of attendance to all our children. Additionally there will be the continued practice of first day calling and attendance meetings with parents for Persistent Absentees.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence. Headteacher to meet Office Manager weekly for an attendance meeting. Headteacher to meet Local Authority attendance lead (termly) to plan and discuss school response to ATTEND framework.	5
Develop the role of the ELSA and Mental Health Champion in school.	The DfE recognise the importance of all schools being aware of the importance of mental wellbeing. Develop links with 'With Me In Mind' and develop our aim to becoming a mentally healthy school. MHFA England develops and supports the ability for all to recognise and support young people more effectively. Internationally accredited training course. MHFA.	All
Improve the accessibility of trips for all including disadvantaged children.	Disadvantaged children- examples of best practice (DFE) Social Mobility Commission 'Unequal playing field'.	All
Improve the availability of extra-curricular clubs to all including disadvantaged children.	The school ensures that all disadvantaged children are invited and encouraged to participate in clubs free of charge. Social Mobility Commission 'Unequal playing field'.	All

Total budgeted cost: £61262.04

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 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Last year, the school established a second role of an ELSA and has further developed the referral process. The school has also trained a senior leader in the Senior Mental Health and Wellbeing training through Carnegie Teaching Hub.

The Pupil Premium and recovery funding was used to fund the development of the home reading books. More book bag books and reading resources were purchased in order to further support children on their reading journey's. it also funded tutoring for children across the different key stages in the core subjects.

All Pupil Premium children were offered places in our extra-curricular clubs and these ran throughout the year. 73% of the Pupil Premium children attended an extra-curricular club and received a free place.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
Talk for Writing	Talk for Writing
Mastering Number	Maths HUB
Get Ahead Partnership	North Lincs Get Ahead
ELSA	North Lincs Council
NPQSL, NPQEY	Leicestershire and Rutland/ Ambition

Further information (optional)

Additional activity

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

- embedding more effective practice around feedback. [EEF evidence](#) demonstrates this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- utilising a [DfE grant to train a senior mental health lead](#). The training we have selected 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.

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

We have put 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.