

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2021 to 2022 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	Abacus Belsize Primary School
Number of pupils in school	159
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	19%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2021/2022 to 2024/2025
Date this statement was published	December 2021
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2022
Statement authorised by	Vicki Briody, Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Katie Mumby
Governor / Trustee lead	Caren Chung, lead for disadvantaged pupils

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£40,350
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£
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	£40,350

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. 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 also strive to improve their cultural capital and expose children to the vibrant and culturally diverse city that we live in.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

Quality first 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. This will include closing the gap caused by school closures for all pupils but specifically for disadvantaged and vulnerable 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
- Scaffold learning effectively to ensure all children achieve the same outcomes.
- Support is provided to enhance their social and emotional wellbeing where needed.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
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1	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate under-developed oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident from Reception through to KS2 and in general, are more prevalent among our disadvantaged pupils than their peers.
2	Internal assessments indicate that reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.
3	Internal assessments indicate that writing attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.
4	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. This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations, especially in writing.
5	Observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, and a lack of enrichment opportunities during school closure. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment.
6	Our attendance data over the last year indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 5 - 10% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. 3% of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to 3% of their peers during that period. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.

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 oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved writing attainment for	KS2 writing outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.

disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	
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"> • qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations • a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 5%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 0%. • the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 3% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 1% lower than their peers.

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: **£15,000**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly.</p>	<p>Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction:</p> <p>Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	<p>1, 2, 3, 4</p>
<p>Embedding dialogic activities across the school curriculum. These can support pupils to articulate key ideas, consolidate understanding and extend vocabulary.</p> <p>We will purchase resources and fund ongoing teacher training and release time.</p>	<p>There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are inexpensive to implement with high impacts on reading:</p> <p>Oral language interventions Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Purchase of a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.</p> <p>(Little Wandle phonics programme)</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Enhancement of our reading and writing teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance.</p> <p>We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in school and to</p>	<p>The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence:</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-ks-1</p>	<p>3</p>

access Talk 4 Writing resources and CPD sessions	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-ks2	
Improve the quality of social and emotional learning and support using tailored approaches and our school counsellor for particular children.	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): EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	5

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

Budgeted cost: **£10,350**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Use of Wellcomm to assess pupils and provide structured interventions to address poor oracy.	Oral language interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' language skills. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: Oral language interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1, 4
Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support. This will be delivered alongside our Little Wandle phonics programme	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: Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	2
Utilising our school staff to provide school-led tutoring for pupils whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. A significant	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one:	4

proportion of the pupils who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.	One to one tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) And in small groups: Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: **£15,000**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
We have developed and enhanced and bespoke social emotional curriculum to promote personal awareness and wellbeing.	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning	5
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Improving School Attendance advice. This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures and appointing attendance/support officers to improve attendance.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.	6
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.	All

Total budgeted cost: £40,350

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 2020 to 2021 academic year.

Our internal assessments during 2020/21 suggested that the performance of disadvantaged pupils was lower than in the previous 2 years in key areas of the curriculum. Despite being on track during the first year (2018/19), the outcomes we aimed to achieve in our previous strategy by the end of 2020/21 were therefore not fully realised.

Our assessment of the reasons for these outcomes points primarily to Covid-19 impact, which disrupted all our subject areas to varying degrees. As evidenced in schools across the country, school closure was most detrimental to our disadvantaged pupils, and they were not able to benefit from our pupil premium funded improvements to teaching and targeted interventions to the degree we had intended. The impact was mitigated by our resolution to maintain a high quality curriculum, including during periods of partial closure, which was aided by use of online teaching by class teachers via Google Classrooms. We also insisted on the attendance of all disadvantaged pupils during lockdown.

Although overall attendance in 2020/21 was lower than in the preceding year, persistent absence is linked to families that we are working closely with to improve. Other pupil premium attendance remains high, however given the link between attendance and outcomes, we chose to include this in our current plan to continue to target better overall attendance with the 3% of children.

Our assessments and observations indicated that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly impacted last year, primarily due to COVID-19-related issues. The impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged pupils and their lack of access to outdoor activities and space. We used pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils, including an increased number of outings and targeted interventions using our school counsellor. We are building on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	<p>We supported all PPG children and PPG families with extra resources/support during national lockdowns. We made sure all PPG children attended school throughout the lockdown.</p> <p>We targeted these children through small group interventions throughout the Spring term to ensure the gap caused by various lockdowns was narrowed.</p>
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	<p>Assessments by teachers demonstrated progress in subject areas where extra support classes were provided.</p>

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.
- 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.

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, pupils and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils. We also worked alongside our Trust of schools to share good practice and work collaboratively to share ideas.

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.

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.