# Pupil premium strategy statement

## This statement details our school’s use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2024 to 2025 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

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| Detail | Data |
| School name | Blessed John Duckett Catholic Primary |
| Number of pupils in school | 65 (+11 nursery) |
| Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils | 33.3% (23) |
| Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers **(3 year plans are recommended)** | 2024-2025 |
| Date this statement was published | November 2024 |
| Date on which it will be reviewed | February 2025 |
| Statement authorised by | J. Ellison |
| Pupil premium lead | J. Ellison |
| Governor / Trustee lead | E. McGurk |

**Funding overview**

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| **Detail** | **Amount** |
| Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year | £31,855 |
| 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 | £31,855 |

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

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| At Blessed John Duckett, we aim to provide the highest quality education for all pupils in our school community regardless of their personal circumstances or background.  We are smaller than average size school with mixed age classes. The number of disadvantaged students varies across cohorts and many of these children have additional needs.  The pupil premium strategy will enable us to teach children in smaller cohorts of mainly two age groups. It will allow support and targeted intervention to help us to close the gap. Children will be exposed to rich experiences and opportunities to develop their personal wellbeing and spiritual journey.  Our goal is that gaps between outcomes of those pupils from disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds narrow.  Staff know our children extremely well. Attainment and progress are closely monitored for all pupils and appropriate support and intervention is given following regular assessments and analysis. |

## Challenges

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

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| Challenge number | Detail of challenge |
| 1 | Pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium do not enter early years at age related-expectations; communication and language and basic maths skills are lower than those of their peers. This means they need to make more progress than their peers to catch up. |
| 2 | Pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium attain lower in maths than their peers. This means they need to consolidate gaps in learning and make rapid progress. |
| 3 | Due to low starting points, some Year 1 disadvantaged pupils struggle to meet the phonics standard at the end of the year. This slows their progress in all curriculum areas that demand effective reading strategies. |
| 4 | All children need high quality teaching and feedback to ensure they make progress and develop appropriate skills and knowledge. |
| 5 | Low attendance rates for some Pupil Premium children impacts on their learning. This means they are constantly having to catch up to their peers. Persistent absentees are particularly high in KS2. |
| 6 | Lack of opportunities for some Pupil Premium children. This causes low aspirations amongst some families. |

## 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.

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| Intended outcome | Success criteria |
| Pupils eligible for Pupil Premium in EYFS make rapid progress in all areas to meet national expectations. | At least 50%Pupil Premium children meet a Good Level of Development*.* |
| Children make rapid progress in maths and consolidate basic number skills | At least 80% of all pupils including PP will meet the expected standard in Maths. |
| Y1 phonics confirm that proportions of disadvantaged pupils that meet the standard continues to be above 80%. | At least 80% of all pupils including PP continue to meet the expected standard in phonics. |
| Provide children with high quality teaching and feedback to ensure progress in lessons. | Increased proportions of pupils will reach ARE in English and Maths across the school. |
| Reduce the number of persistent absentees. | Number of persistent absentees is at least in line with National Average.  There are increased attendance rates for Pupil Premium children. |
| For all children to experience wider opportunities within their learning – cultural capital | For all children to have access to educational visits, visitors, music tuition etc. |

## 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: £20,500

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Continue to implement high quality teaching of early oracy skills to develop language and vocabulary | On average, children who are involved in communication and language approaches make approximately six months’ additional progress over the course of a year. All children appear to benefit from such approaches, but some studies show slightly larger effects for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.  A 2016 randomised controlled trial found a positive impact of four months’ additional progress for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention.  **EEF toolkit: Communication and language approaches - additional 6 months progress** | 1 |
| Staff to continue to receive training from the Maths Hub to develop early numeracy approaches. | On average, early numeracy approaches have a positive impact on learning equivalent to approximately six additional months’ progress for early mathematics outcomes. There is some variation between approaches, which suggests that the choice of approach and the way in which strategies are introduced are important. Approaches tend to produce larger effects when they are designed to develop a particular mathematical skill (such a counting or estimating), commit a regular amount of time to developing mathematics (between two and three hours per week), designed specifically for the early years setting involved, and include some specific individual interaction.  **EEF toolkit: Early Numeracy Approaches - additional 6 months progress** | 1 |
| Staff to continue to receive training from the Maths Hub to develop Mastery Maths approaches to specific children and cohorts. | Short, regular sessions (about 1hr, at least twice per week) over a set period of time (six to twelve weeks) appear to result in optimum impact. Evidence also suggests tuition should be additional to, but explicitly linked with, normal teaching, and that teachers should monitor progress to ensure the tutoring is beneficial. A variability in findings may suggest it is the particular type or quality of teaching enabled by very small groups that is important, rather than the precise size of the group.  **EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit: Small group tuition - additional 4 months progress** | 2 |
| New staff to access phonics training to implement scheme in line with DfE guidance & other staff to access support to ensure consistency in this approach to phonics across the school. | Overall, the evidence base related to phonics is very secure. There have been a number of studies, reviews and meta-analyses that have consistently found that the systematic teaching of phonics is beneficial. There is some evidence that approaches informed by synthetic phonics (where the emphasis is on sounding out letters and blending sounds to form words) may be more beneficial than analytic approaches (where the sound/symbol relationship is inferred from identifying patterns and similarities by comparing several words).  Sounds Write is a DfE accredited systematic synthetic phonics programme  **EEF toolkit: Phonics - additional 4-month progress** | 3 |

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

Budgeted cost: £8000

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Continue to ensure that all eligible pupils’ access EYFS as soon as they are able. | [**Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) project findings**](https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8543/7/SSU-SF-2004-01.pdf)  Beginning early year’s education at a younger age appears to have a high positive impact on learning outcomes. It is estimated that children who start to attend an early year setting before turning three make approximately six additional months’ progress compared to those who start a year later.  **Early Years EEF Toolkit: Earlier Starting Age – additional 6 months progress** | 1 |
| Intervention for Reading/GPS/maths – Taught by school staff after school. | Short, regular sessions (about 1hr, at least twice per week) over a set period of time (six to twelve weeks) appear to result in optimum impact. Evidence also suggests tuition should be additional to, but explicitly linked with, normal teaching, and that teachers should monitor progress to ensure the tutoring is beneficial. A variability in findings may suggest it is the particular type or quality of teaching enabled by very small groups that is important, rather than the precise size of the group.  **EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit: Small group tuition - additional 4 months progress**  **EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit: One to One tuition - additional 5 months progress** | 4 |

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

Budgeted cost: £3000

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Work with One Point – Early Help to ensure families receive support to improve attendance | Parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months’ additional progress.  **EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit: Parental Engagement – additional 4 months progress** | 5 |
| Provide opportunities for children to take part in educational visits, visitors, music tuition etc. | Children from low social deprived areas are less likely to have opportunities to leave the area and visit local landmarks. Children are less likely to have access to music tuition. | 8 |

**Total budgeted cost: £31,855**

# 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.**

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| Challenge 1 – Children can enter nursery the day after they are three. Speaking and listening attainment at the end of the year 2023 was 58%, gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged continue to be high however a significant number of children had additional needs and speech and language difficulties.  Challenge 2 – Numerous children accessed counselling sessions to support their emotional wellbeing, throughout the year. All children across school access at least a 6-week block of forest schools and 6 weeks of gardening. School received support from agencies such as Trail Blazers, Piece of Mind, If you care, share. Through monitoring, it could be seen that children are developing their resilience skills and beginning to apply this to their learning.  Challenge 3 – All staff that worked in school during 2023-24 have been trained in Sounds Write. Monitoring has shown lessons to be at least good. School have taken part in three development days with a Sounds Write expert alongside a member of BHCET Trust. This showed fidelity to the scheme and children making good progress. At the end of the academic year attainment in Year 1 Phonics was 75%. Gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged are still evident but are closing.  Challenge 4 – Booster sessions for Years 5 and 6 took place weekly after school across the full school year with experienced teachers. Maths, reading and phonics interventions also took place with children identified as needing additional support from termly teacher assessment analysis. On the whole, children who qualify for PP are working at a lower attainment than that of their peers but continue to make progress from starting points.  Challenge 5 – Attendance during 2023-24 improved from the previous years. Persistent absenteeism significantly reduced.  Challenge 6 – All children from Year 1 to Year 6 accessed additional music tuition in a group. All children had the opportunity to play Djambi drums and the Ukelele. All children took part in educational visits and Year 6 children went on a residential visit. |