## **Pupil premium strategy statement**

This statement is part of a 3 year strategy statement (2021-24) and details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2023-24 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	Cockermouth School
Number of pupils in school	Years 7-11 1086 (Dec 23) Years 12-13 201 (Dec 23)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	16.5 % in Years 7-11 1% in Years 12-13 <sup>1</sup> 14.1 % in Years 7-13
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2021/22 2022/23 2023/24
Date this statement was published	December 2021 (reviewed Dec 2023)
Date on which it will be reviewed	(Annually) December 2024
Statement authorised by	Richard King - Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Michelle Henley – Senior Deputy Headteacher and Hugh Carter – Assistant Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Sue Moses – PP Trustee

#### **Funding overview**

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year (23-24)	£184,436
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year (23-24)	£59,471
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year (23-24)	£243,907
If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Only includes CLA, post CLA, adopted, SGO. FSM and service students are not eligible in 6<sup>th</sup> form

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## **Statement of intent**

Cockermouth School has at its heart the aim to offer an exceptional learning experience for all. We are a high-performing, truly comprehensive and inclusive school serving a large rural catchment area in the north-west of Cumbria and we value our place at the heart of our local community. As a school we recognise how important it is to develop all students, to enable them to fulfil their potential, regardless of disadvantage or background and to ensure they make good progress and achieve high attainment across the curriculum. We are committed to raising the attainment of all pupil premium students across the curriculum with a clear aim of closing the progress and attainment gaps between pupil premium and other students to ensure that they are in line with non-disadvantaged students with the same starting points.

Our pupil premium strategy is built around promoting our five core school values of aspire, enjoy, include, respect and community. As a school, we use evidence-based approaches based around the 3 pillars from the EEF framework – supporting teaching, targeted academic support, and wider strategies<sup>2</sup>. The strategy does not focus solely on Pupil Premium students and we have chosen to focus our efforts on dealing with how particular issues typically impact on the outcomes and experiences of all students.

The central element of our Pupil Premium Strategy lies in Quality First Teaching and providing a high quality of education. We know that if we ensure and maintain high expectations for all students and that we support each individual to work hard in every lesson, we maximise the chances of our Pupil Premium students reaching their full potential. We retain a very broad and balanced curriculum across Key Stage 3 and enable students to study four preference subjects at Key Stage 4, in addition to the compulsory English, Maths and Science components. Every student can access the EBacc curriculum at Key Stage 4 and we believe that if a student is able to cope with both the humanities and language elements of the curriculum that they should be encouraged to study them.

We ensure the provision of high quality CPD programme, working alongside our staff to help them maximise the quality of lesson delivery. The training focuses on maintaining the highest standards of student behaviour and effort in every lesson through a consistent approach to behaviour management. Another key focus is on enhancing our understanding and implementation of reading and literacy strategies to support our learners more effectively. Understanding the needs of our SEND learners forms another strand of our programme, ensuring that we can plan consistently for their needs. The CPD also focuses on how we identify our vulnerable and at-risk students, so that we can then put in place appropriate support for their wellbeing. Underpinning all staff development is the importance of knowing our students to maximise their potential.

Targeted academic support strategies focus on the use of tutoring, literacy and numeracy interventions to target gaps and challenges that are preventing disadvantaged students from reaching their potential.

Our wider strategies focus on supporting specialist behaviour, wellbeing and attendance teams. Some students require additional, bespoke support. Our aim is also to provide our disadvantaged students with access to a range of enrichment activities and resources, with departments providing appropriate resources for home learning and financial support for key visits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/using-pupil-premium</u>

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Academic outcomes: Our school trend for the academic outcomes of disadvantaged cohort reflects the national trend. Attainment and progress (P8) of disadvantaged students can be below that of our non-disadvantaged cohort even when based on the same KS2 starting point. As a cohort these students find it more difficult to make progress at the rate of their non-disadvantaged peers. However, it should also be noted that our disadvantaged cohort in a year group is approximately 15% of students. Within that group there are some students who make exceptional progress and conversely some students whose context is atypical and their academic progress is significantly hindered.
2	<b>Behaviour</b> : Although our overall suspension figures remain below the national average, exclusions and behaviour concerns come disproportionally from our disadvantaged cohort.
3	Attendance: Attendance issues and persistent absenteeism are more prevalent amongst our disadvantaged cohort. We know from our own observations and analysis that this attendance gap negatively impacts on our disadvantaged students' attainment and progress outcomes. Within this cohort, low parental support for school attendance and historical poor attendance are often factors. The impact of Covid-19 has increased this attendance gap.
4	<b>Reading</b> : Internal screening, along with our own observations and assessments have flagged up that there are significant gaps in reading ability, exacerbated by the school closures 2020-2021.
5	<b>Resources at home:</b> Risk of more limited access to digital resources and other materials to support learning beyond school.
6	<b>Extra-curricular:</b> The risk of lower engagement from our disadvantaged cohort with extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. Our own audits and observations show that our disadvantaged students may not access extra-curricular activities as well as their non-disadvantaged peers.
7	<b>Social, emotional and mental health issues</b> : Our disadvantaged cohort needs greater SEMH support compared to our non-disadvantaged cohort. At an individual level the extent of support required can be significant.

## **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
The progress and attainment of our disadvantaged	Excellent outcomes for our disadvantaged cohort
students better than the national average for this cohort and in line with national average for all students regardless of background	<ul> <li>P8 score of ≥ 0 for all students in the cohort at GCSE.</li> </ul>
students regardless of background.	<ul> <li>The attainment of disadvantaged students at GCSE is above the national average from the same starting point.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Internal report data shows attainment of disadvantaged students in line with our non-disadvantaged cohort.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Disadvantaged students will achieve 5+ in maths and English, in line with non- disadvantaged pupils with the same prior attainment.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>All students to be given access to the EBacc pathway, with uptake for disadvantaged students in line with non- disadvantaged students with the same prior attainment.</li> </ul>
Behaviour of our disadvantaged students improves and is in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.	<ul> <li>Reduction in fixed period suspension (C5) and internal suspension (C4) incidents involving disadvantaged students to 15% of overall school exclusions.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Reduction in the number of repeat suspensions amongst individual disadvantaged students.</li> </ul>
Reduction in persistent absenteeism and an improvement in attendance across the disadvantaged cohort.	<ul> <li>Attendance gap of disadvantaged students to close to within 2% of our non-disadvantaged cohort.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Persistent Absence to be below the national average for disadvantaged students with the percentage of students who are persistently absent being below 15%</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Students with clear, staged intervention plans see improved attendance following intervention.</li> </ul>
Improve the level of literacy from year 7, which will enable students to access the whole curriculum more effectively.	<ul> <li>Disadvantaged students prioritised for reading and literacy interventions to close gaps for target students to ensure that their reading age matches chronological age when tested following the intervention.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Any gaps identified through English and literacy screening to be narrowed by the end of Year 7.</li> </ul>

Students provided with hardware, resources and access to key educational visits through pupil premium funding.	<ul> <li>All families have access to a digital device.</li> <li>All disadvantaged students to attend key educational visits.</li> <li>Revision guides and material resources provided for students from pupil premium funding to support their learning experience.</li> </ul>
Engage our disadvantaged students fully with our extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities.	<ul> <li>Key events take place throughout the school year attended by all pupil premium students.</li> <li>Disadvantaged students prioritised and attend CEIAG interventions with careers adviser.</li> </ul>
Improved support of our disadvantaged students with social, emotional and mental health issues.	<ul> <li>Engagement with students most at risk through our school counsellor and inclusion and pastoral teams.</li> <li>Resilience improving and reduction in support needed over time from the pastoral team.</li> <li>The student population has a good level of awareness of the issues of sexual harassment and violence. Data shows a decrease in negative behaviours and an increase in positive behaviours such as reporting and peer support.</li> </ul>
Improved metacognitive, resilience and self- regulation skills among disadvantaged students across all subjects.	<ul> <li>Class Charts records show a decrease in the number of homework points issued for disadvantaged students.</li> <li>Teacher reports and class observations indicate disadvantaged students are more able to monitor and regulate their own learning.</li> <li>Student voice indicates that disadvan- taged students feel more able to self-reg- ulate.</li> </ul>

## Activity in this academic year (2023-4)

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium funding) **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

### **Quality First Teaching and Staff Development**

Budgeted cost: £ 70,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
CPD Appointment of senior leader with responsibility for staff development and training. High- quality professional development that is steeped in rigorous scholarship with teaching staff continually developing and collaborating to ensure students benefit from the best possible teaching based on the best evidence. All teaching staff adopt a culture of continuous improvement, using evidence-based approaches to deliver high quality learning for all students within and beyond lessons. The CPD programme focuses on the following whole school priorities and revisits each half- termly to sustain focus and progress: • Teaching and Learning • Literacy • SEND • Behaviour • Pastoral Support • Safeguarding	Effective CPD has both a positive impact on student outcomes and a significant role to play in the successful recruitment, retention and well-being of our staff. It is therefore valued and prioritised by our school leadership team to ensure that teaching staff, together with leaders of pastoral and academic teams and with the full support of the senior leadership team can work productively on sustainable, long-term school improvement. EEF evidence: https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education- evidence/guidance-reports/effective-professional- development	1, 2, 4,

Quality of Education QA of curriculum to ensure that it is coherently planned and sequenced to ensure cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment. Regular reviews with Department Leaders follow a clear and thorough process with the expert member of staff for curriculum, assessment and staff development providing feedback and informing subsequent action plans for departments.	Progress of students who receive consistently high quality teaching and learning can make accelerated progress of up to +12 months in an academic year. Sutton Trust (2011). This is the biggest lever in driving up students' progress EEF: The best available evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve outcomes for their pupils. <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/support- for-schools/school-improvement-planning/1-high-quality- teaching</u>	1,2,4
Behaviour Through an established culture and training, developed with staff and students, which incorporate the five core values of the school, staff maintain the highest expectations for all and students show respect for one another and the school environment. All staff are trained to consistently apply the school procedures.	Evidence from the EEF indicates that it is clear that reducing challenging behaviour in schools can have a direct and lasting effect on pupils' learning. This is based on a number of metaanalyses that review robust studies of interventions in schools. The positive behaviours and attitudes of students creates a respectful and safe environment in which students can feel safe and teachers can focus on providing the best possible teaching and learning. <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education- evidence/guidance-reports/behaviour</u>	2
Assessment Accurate assessment is used to identify student need and subsequently inform intervention and next steps in teaching and learning and summatively to periodically evidence student attainment and progress. Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments.	Low stakes formative assessment is occurring regularly in lessons so that teachers and students are checking learn- ing and adapting accordingly. Formal, high stakes assess- ment is based on the 4 pillars of assessment (purpose, re- liability, validity and value).	1, 4

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

Budgeted cost: £ 60,000 (along with £59,471 from the recovery premium and financial support from the School Led Tutoring grant)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
1:1 and small group academic support CLA / PP+ / PP students identified for 1:1 tuition or small group tuition with in- school tutors.	There is extensive high-quality evidence demonstrating the potential of one-to-one and small-group tuition as a cost-effective way to support pupils who are falling behind. The Sutton Trust-EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit suggests it can boost progress by up to +5 months. Short, regular sessions over a set period of time appear to result in optimum impact. <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education- evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/one-to-one-tuition</u>	1, 4
1:1 tuition / NTP to be used with cohorts of KS4 students identified in English, Maths and Science (My Tutor) in the spring term following a data capture.		
Literacy Team employed to deliver literacy strategy, in particular to implement Reciprocal Reading as an intervention to identified cohorts of students through 1:1 and small group intervention.	<b>EEF:</b> The average impact of reading comprehension strategies is an additional six months' progress over the course of a year. Successful reading comprehension approaches allow activities to be carefully tailored to pupils' reading capabilities, and involve activities and texts that provide an effective, but not overwhelming, challenge. <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies</u>	
	All students are screened in literacy to identify any below age-related expectations with further probe testing done to diagnose specific needs.	
Thinking Reading programme as a strategy to improve reading and literacy skills with our weakest readers at Key Stages 3 and 4.	Thinking Reading programme as a strategy to improve reading and literacy skills with our weakest readers at Key Stages 3 and 4. On average, reading comprehension ap- proaches can deliver an additional six months' progress. <u>https://www.thinkingreading.com/</u>	
Subscription to Sparx Maths (was	Maths and Science leaders have identified these plat- forms as successful tools to support independent learning and inform teachers and students of gaps. The Nesta	

Hegarty)and Carousel (Science)	NFER report on flipped learning indicated the benefits of using software like HegartyMaths to support what hap- pens in the classroom. <u>https://www.nfer.ac.uk/flipped-learning-research-report</u>	
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# Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ 54,436

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Attendance Interventions: Attendance Lead employed with a fo- cus on the attend- ance of our disad- vantaged cohort. Attendance moni- toring and support to improve overall attendance figure for pupil premium students.	Attendance Lead has been effective at working with difficult fam- ilies and other agencies to improve the attendance of our disad- vantaged cohort. Reviewing the results of students who whose attendance falls below 90%, it is clear how important it is to get our disadvan- taged students to attend well. There is a clear link between at- tendance and subsequent attainment and progress. The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced persistent absence lev- els.	3
Embedding princi- ples of good prac- tice set out in DfE's <u>Improving School</u> <u>Attendance</u> advice.		
Wellbeing: Inclusion Centre support and stu- dent counselling. Targeted behaviour support through the Behaviour Lead de- ployed in our Be- haviour Centre to work with individual students to improve behaviour and en- gagement.	EEF: Social and emotional learning approaches can have a positive impact, on average, of 4 months' additional progress in academic outcomes over the course of an academic year. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education- evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional- learning?utm_source=/education-evidence/teaching-learning- toolkit/social-and-emotional- learning&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&se arch_term=social Many of our disadvantaged students have complex backgrounds and need bespoke support in school. 1:1 counselling provided for many of our most vulnerable disadvantaged learners.	7
Enrich- ment /		

Provision of re- source s: Continue to priori- tise pupil premium students for enrich- ment activities, pro- vision of resources and providing finan- cial support to ena- ble students to take part in trips and ac- tivities. Digital audit en- sures that all fami- lies are given ac- cess to a digital de- vice to support re- mote learning. Financial support given to students wishing to engage with music tuition. Ring fencing of funding for PP+ students to support with both academic and extra-curricular	EEF studies have shown that enrichment approaches can di- rectly improve pupils' attainment. The EEF thinks that enriching education has intrinsic benefits. We think all children, including those from disadvantaged back- grounds, deserve a well-rounded, culturally rich, education. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for- teachers/life-skills-enrichment?utm_source=/guidance-for- teachers/life-skills-enrichment&utm_medium=search&utm_cam- paign=site_search&search_term=enrich	5, 6
Aspira- tion Continued work to ensure that we maintain high aspi- rations disadvan- taged students and support them effec- tively in preparing them for the next steps with effective careers guidance. Disadvantaged stu- dents prioritised for careers interviews. Engagement with HE / FE providers to highlight the op- portunities and benefits of Higher Education.	EEF: Careers education can be crucial in developing the knowledge, confidence and skills young people need to make well- informed, relevant choices and plans for their future. This is especially true of students from poorer backgrounds, who are less likely to have family or friends with the insight and expertise to offer advice. High quality careers education can help them progress smoothly into further learning and work. <u>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evi- dence/evidence-reviews/careers-education</u>	6
Ensure that all Year 10 students have		

access to a positive	
work placement	
next year.	

# Total budgeted cost: £ 243,907

# Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year (2022-23)

### Pupil premium strategy outcomes

Outcomes from 2023 exams:							
Disadvantaged Students	2018	2019		2022	2023		
Total number of students	29	29		24	30		
Progress 8	-0.56	-0.21		-0.43	-0.54		
Average Total Attainment 8	37.06	36.17		42.58	38.4		

#### **Examination outcomes**

The performance of students who were attending regularly, engaging with the teaching and learning and taking advantage of the support provided was very strong. A minority of our disadvantaged cohort had individual circumstances which made regular school attendance difficult. These students were fully supported throughout their time in education at our school. The majority of our disadvantaged cohort students attended well and had a P8 average of +0.46, higher than our Progress score for all Year 11 students. The student with the strongest progress score in the whole of Year 11 was from this disadvantaged cohort,

#### **Careers and transitions**

IDSR shows our destinations data is strong with students securing education employment or training. We specifically focus on prioritising disadvantaged students. We employ our own in-house Careers Officer. In addition to our whole school careers and transition provision - Every disadvantaged Year 9 student is offered an independent careers interview as part of the GCSE preference process. Every disadvantaged Year 10 student is offered an independent careers interview to support them getting organised for their week-long Work Experience placement. Every Year 11 is offered an independent careers interview to support post-16 transition; disadvantaged students are prioritised.

#### Enrichment

Enrichment is deliberately planned to include all students and is subsidised where needed to ensure maximum participation. SLT approve proposals for enrichment subject to poverty proofing principles. All students in years 7 to 9 had the same enriched residential experience opportunity in July in school time, including a city visit and outward bound activity; the school contributed £2578 in 2023 to ensure inclusive access. All Year 7 students experience a free poet and author visit with additional workshops for the disadvantaged and signed books purchased for them. All of Year 8 and 9 students are able to engage in external Science and Geography enrichment. We actively seek additional opportunity and funding to support the enrichment of our disadvantaged cohort. In 2022-23 we were a pilot project for the Arts Council's Curious Citizens project to enhance engagement and experience of the arts in deprived rural areas.

#### Behaviour

Students are supported effectively by the safeguarding, pastoral and behaviour support teams. These students receive additional support from trained adults in school and through prioritised access to outside agencies, facilitated through school. With behaviour, proactive work is done deliberately with students to reduce the likelihood of them repeatedly receiving high-level sanctions. We have seen a 50% reduction in both internal and fixed period suspensions term on term since the start of 2022/23, although the proportion of pupil premium students receiving a sanction remains higher than their non-pupil premium peers.

#### Attendance

The attendance gap remains stubborn, despite an improvement in the overall attendance figure for pupil premium students at the start of the 2023-24 academic year. We continue to focus our efforts on our disadvantaged students to reduce this gap and remove any barriers to students attending in school, working closely with students, parents and other agencies. We are using the EBSA toolkit and providing positive support through our Inclusion Centre to support students' return to school following absence.

## **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			
1:1 and NTP Tuition	My Tutor			
CEIAG online support	Unifrog			
Reading intervention	Thinking Reading			
Maths online support	Sparx Maths			
Science online support	Carousel			
Results analysis	Sisra			
Literacy Assessment	TES online			
Behaviour Management Software	ClassCharts			
FFT Literacy Reciprocal Reading	FFT			

# **Further information (optional)**

We have read a number of reports and studies about the 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 a number of studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged students.

Use of EEF reports and guidance have helped us develop our strategy and we will continue to use it through the implementation of our activities. We engage with the different WELL initiatives (Western Excellence in Learning and Leadership), aimed at improving the outcomes of disadvantaged students in the West Cumbria, collaborating with other local schools.

We will ensure we evaluate the progress of our plans and adjust them as appropriate to secure better outcomes for our disadvantaged students.

The following publications have been most important when planning our strategy:

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/using-pupil-premium

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-effective-use-and-accountability

We have also identified best practice from other successful schools and implemented these practices in a way that fits in with our school ethos. We will continue to look outward to ensure we are using our pupil premium funding in the most effective way.