



Pupil Premium Plan 2024-27

The Pupil Premium funding allocation for this academic year is £268,000. The new three-year plan was discussed by governors at their Quality of Education meeting in January. The three-tiered EEF model will continue to be the basis for this plan. The three tiers are:-

- High Quality Teaching for all students with a focus on staff training.
- Targeted Academic Support with a focus on interventions and monitoring
- Wider Strategies to support specific students and their families.

The strategies in each tier were discussed. This plan is part of the whole improvement school plan and is integral to everything the school does.

The Statement of Intent which is central to the plan has been strengthened to include **“the most for those that need the most”**. Discussion focused on the importance of quality assurance. It is not sufficient that the plan is implemented. It is a question of how well it is implemented and how do we know? Quality Assurance models are being devised to ensure this is done with reference to all the tiers, and all areas in school. Governors will monitor this throughout the period of the plan.

The School Improvement Plan

At the Local Governing Board meeting in January 2025 Mr Wright explained the principle behind the new S.I.P. He outlined the key messages for all staff:-

- **Excellence** - giving students a greater say in their futures.
- **The most for those that need the most.**
- Every child has a right to be **known and valued.**
- **Collective endeavour** – all should be focused on the plan.
- **Professional joy** – from autonomy and clarity.

The highest priority for the school this year is SEND improvement. This follows from the Ofsted inspection. Governors were encouraged to discuss the implementation of the plan and their role in this. The plan offers a stronger role for link governors as it forces them to be more strategic in their questioning. Mr Wright emphasized that the question governors should always challenge staff with is: **“How do you know?”** There will be further discussion of this approach in LGB meetings later in the year.

Department of Education Prevent Training in Education: Training for Governors

Several governors attended this training which was held nationwide. Ninety-eight participants were on one the calls held via Teams in January. The concerns nationally about knife crime made this a particularly important issue for governors. PREVENT is a statutory duty on all schools. The threats posed by terrorist groups and by lone individuals were discussed. The biggest threat to young people is via the dissemination of terrorist material on-line. It was emphasized that schools must have effective monitoring and filtering systems to counter any threats.

The issue of on-line safety is reported to governors regularly by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. She explains the use of the school system of monitoring which is called Smoothwall. Staff are encouraged to spot any signs of radicalisation and links with outside agencies are well established. Our safeguarding link governor is Joanne Thorns who ensures that this issue has a high profile with governors.

A case study was used in the training about a local year 9 pupil who had easy access to on-line information and became radicalised quickly. The training aimed to ensure that governors understood their Prevent duty and were able to monitor this effectively in governor meetings.

Governor Training – SEND

All governors were asked to work through the BiteSize video on **“Childhood trauma and the brain.”** This emphasizes that brain development has a key role in developing relationships. This can have a long-term impact. Childhood trauma can provoke latent vulnerability leading to poor mental health, anxiety and depression. Challenging behaviour in school may be caused by childhood trauma and positive relationships are key to dealing with this.

Thanks go to two governors – Louise Quinn and Papi Taieb - who resigned from the LGB recently. The time commitment required, and the nature of the role meant that they felt they could not continue. Their contributions have been much appreciated.