

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School - Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil 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

Detail	Data
School name	St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Number of pupils in school	159 (including Nursery)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	50%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended</b> )	2024-25 2025-26 2026-27
Date this statement was first published	December 2021
Date this statement was reviewed	December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	December 2026
Statement authorised by	Geraldine Hampton Executive Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Kathryn Weir Assistant Headteachers
Governor / Trustee lead	Dave Hallbery

## Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£121,200
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£ 0
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b> If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£121,200

## 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 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.

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.

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	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped 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	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers. PPG and non-disadvantaged pupils are showing gaps in reading skills. Lowest 20% in reading are predominantly PPG including in Lower KS2.
3	A general national decline in reading for pleasure has affected our pupils' word recognition and writing in EYFS. We are now seeing an impact on reading further up school with many children behind in their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills.
4	On entry to the school, our assessments and observations indicate that many of our disadvantaged pupils have significant challenges with communication and Language.
5	Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils. Teacher referrals for support are high with many pupils currently requiring additional support with social and emotional needs. A high proportion of these children are disadvantaged and are receiving small group interventions. This has been exacerbated in the last few years by major violent incidents in the school community which has affected children, families and staff.
6	Our attendance data over the last year indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils is low. Attendance across the school remains below the expectation of 96%. Attendance of PPG pupils was 91% for 2024/25 compared to 94.3% for non-PPG pupils. Unauthorised absence for PPG pupils was also considerably higher (3.43%) than that of non-PPG pupils (1.5%). Lateness continues to be higher for PPG pupils compared to the average level for the school. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.
7.	Our assessments and observations indicate challenges with handwriting and fine motor skills across the school. Although this affects most pupils,

	it is particularly evident for PPG and other vulnerable pupils. This is impacting writing outcomes.
8.	We have found there is a lack of engagement from PPG parents.
9.	PPG children in EYFS and KS1 have less developed skills for socialisation than their peers.
10.	We continue to see the serious financial impact on PPG families of the cost of living crisis and other changes to income/benefits.

## 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.
Increased percentage of disadvantaged children who read for pleasure.	Pupil Surveys demonstrate a growing percentage of pupils who express their interest in reading.
Improved reading progress among disadvantaged pupils in order to close the gaps.	Percentage of pupils with good grasp of basic skills, handwriting, sentence writing, fluency and comprehension in reading increases across all year groups Percentage of pupils, including PPG, passing screening is in line with national figures Percentage of pupils, including PPG, achieving expected standards at the end of KS2 is in line with national figures
Continued improvement in attendance for PPG pupils and a reduction in unauthorised absences.	Over period of the strategy: Sustained high attendance for all groups including PPG and the disadvantaged Persistent absenteeism (lower than 80% attendance) level for PPG less than 12% and in line with non-PPG pupils.

	Attendance for targeted pupils (those with attendance less than 90%) improves compared to last year.
Improved attainment for PPG pupils in Reading, Writing and Maths	Over period of the strategy: To be at least in line with the national average. Multiplication Table Check to be in line or above national average. Average KS2 scaled scores to be in line with national average 104/105.
Improved engagement from parents of PPG pupils	Improved attendance at parent-teacher conferences and school events from parents of PPG pupils.
EYFS and KS1 are able to form meaningful relationships with peers and adults. Positive behaviour in the playground and in classes.	Reduction of behaviour incidents in the playground – monitored using CPOMS.
An increased number of disadvantaged children in EYFS achieve GLD.	Disadvantaged children in EYFS are closing gaps and making accelerated progress from their baseline.
Improved handwriting and fine motor skills for disadvantaged pupils across the school.	Reception children use appropriate grip and form letters correctly. Most children in KS1 write with neat cursive script by the end of Year 1. Improved handwriting across KS2 seen during book looks.
Children have basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. Children have equal access to all opportunities and are not disadvantaged by economic factors.	All PPG pupils have access to clubs, trips, Breakfast club etc.  Subsidies available for the school journey and other school trips/ events.  PPG pupils supported financially as necessary.

## 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: £ 55,300

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Targeted professional development for teachers to address specific needs, develop subject knowledge so that they can support pupils emotionally and academically  Targeted CPD for support staff to support learning in class and the emotional development of pupils	High quality professional development is key to ensuring that all staff can support pupils emotionally and academically. Support staff play a key role in supporting learning and emotional development so training will be provided for them.  Professional development is most effective when it addresses school priorities and specific needs. We will access opportunities through the Local Authority Offer. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teachers-continuing-professional-development">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teachers-continuing-professional-development</a>	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and	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: <a href="#">Standardised tests   Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a>	1, 2, 3, 4, 7

administered correctly. Particularly for ECTs and new staff.		
<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 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><a href="#">Oral language interventions   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a></p> <p>We will deliver a range of interventions to develop the speech, language and communication skills or targeted pupils including Talk Boost and Attention Autism Activities.</p>	1, 2, 3
<p>Consultant support to develop broad, balanced and inspirational curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils</p> <p>Consultant support for school improvement</p>	<p>Delivering a broad, balanced and inspirational curriculum is a key focus for schools (Ofsted – EIF/DfE). We will continue to work to improve our curriculum across our federation and with support from consultants to be broad, inspirational and meet the needs of our children.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
<p>Regular, targeted monitoring of pupil progress (including release time)</p>	<p>Close monitoring of outcomes and progress ensures that gaps are addressed and closed. It allows support to be provided where necessary to ensure pupils achieve to their full potential</p>	1, 2, 4, 8, 9

for teachers and CPD)		
Including at least termly pupil progress meetings		
<p>Continue to deliver a consistent and effective Phonics programme across the school</p> <p>Develop teaching and monitoring of Early Reading and Reading generally across the school</p> <p>Promote reading for pleasure</p> <p>CPD for staff on Early Reading</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><a href="#">Phonics   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a></p> <p>Participation in English Hub training with focus on Early Reading and phonics to develop pedagogy and share best practice.</p> <p>CPD is key to ensuring consistent delivery of phonics and early reading to all pupils. It is also important to establish clear monitoring practices around reading</p> <p>Includes release time for staff to attend CPD meetings and disseminate good practice more widely</p> <p><a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teachers-continuing-professional-development">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teachers-continuing-professional-development</a></p>	1, 2, 3, 8

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

Budgeted cost: £ 40,900

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Timely interventions to address learning gaps and to	EEF evidence of attainment gaps for PPG Interventions targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7



support children to achieve and make at least expected progress	to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind. Small groups: <u><a href="#">Small group tuition   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a></u>	
Booster sessions for Year 6 to address any gaps and further challenge pupils Booster sessions and additional adult support for phonics	Evidence from EEF and Sutton trust demonstrate the effectiveness of small group interventions groups on progress and on addressing gaps in learning.	1, 2, 3, 7
Improving language proficiency in EYFS and KS1  Targeted interventions in EYFS  Deliver Talk Boost and Attention Autism interventions	<u><a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/early-language">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/early-language</a></u>  Oracy 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. Improving language acquisition and proficiency in EY/KS1 will support learning and progress later. Also poor language skills can impact on behaviour as well as learning.  <u><a href="#">Oral language interventions   EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</a></u>	1, 2, 3, 5
Additional support from Educational Psychologist to provide support for PPG and SEND pupils. Ed Psych to work with families and pupils to improve outcomes	Specialist support from Educational Psychologist is fundamental to allow the needs of the most vulnerable to be addressed.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Structured interventions across the school to support reading (including early reading), EAL	Evidence from EEF and Sutton trust for small group interventions groups.  <u><a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/catch-up-literacy">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/catch-up-literacy</a></u>	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8,

<p>interventions, SEND interventions and other interventions to close gaps</p> <p>Children's Literacy Lab, which is part of the Children's Literacy Charity.</p>	EEF reports into literacy and maths support.	
Continue to raise outcomes in maths across the school and improve teacher pedagogy	Teachers who are confident in teaching maths will deliver stronger outcomes. Systematic CPD programme for maths and resources provided by White Rose Maths Scheme.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8,

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

Budgeted cost: £ 25,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>CPD for staff to support children's emotional wellbeing:</p> <p>Trauma Informed teaching, emotion coaching.</p> <p>Deliver Healthy Schools Silver Action Plan which focuses on wellbeing.</p>	<p>Emotional wellbeing has been affected by worsening economic conditions in our local area. Families are affected by poor housing and crime in the local area. Pupils including PPG and vulnerable pupils are demonstrating difficulties with relationships.</p> <p><a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel</a></p> <p>KCSIE 2025 focus on Pupil wellbeing</p>	4, 5, 8
Funding music therapy to provide emotional support for pupils.	To support emotional needs of identified disadvantaged pupils.	5

<p>Half-termly monitoring of absence and punctuality followed by meetings with parents.</p> <p>Collaborate with Local Authority attendance officers to address cases of high absenteeism</p>	<p>Best practice advice from LA school improvement partner and attendance officer</p> <p><a href="#">Improving School Attendance</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance</a></p>	6
<p>Welfare support for vulnerable families</p> <p>Funding for supporting families with cost of uniform, school journey, breakfast club and club fees for PPG pupils</p>	<p>Many of our PPG and vulnerable pupils are struggling to meet financial challenges of uniform, clubs, trips etc. We believe that no child should be prevented from taking part in the wider school curriculum because of financial pressures.</p>	5, 9
<p>Contingency fund for acute issues.</p>	<p>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.</p>	All

**Total budgeted cost: £121,200**

## 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.

Pupils in receipt of PPG achieved very well overall in statutory assessments in 24/25. Their outcomes were generally above national averages. This has been achieved through targeted support (including the delivery of boosters and other interventions), rigorous monitoring and high quality teaching. Despite these successes, the impact of the cost of living crisis persists and continues to affect most of our disadvantaged pupils.

Our phonics programme continues to deliver strong outcomes in phonics for all our pupils, including those who are in receipt of pupil premium. Our outcomes were just below the national average with 79% passing the Year 1 phonics screening (80% nationally). However, 91.7% of disadvantaged pupils met the expectation (67% of disadvantaged children passed nationally). Rigorous tracking and assessment, as well as carefully planned interventions, ensured pupils performed well in the screening. We will continue to prioritise phonics and reading in the coming year, engaging with parents with strategies to support at home. We will also deliver support and interventions in maths and oracy to ensure gaps continue to close.

Handwriting and fine motor skills continue to emerge as an area of focus through our monitoring cycle. The school continues to identify this as a priority for the year 25/26. The embedding of our handwriting programme (letter-Join) continues. Dedicated curriculum time has become a priority to address the gaps in handwriting and in response to The Writing Framework. Targeted interventions for the lowest 20% will continue into the next academic year.

The school continued to see low attendance figures in 2024/25 of 92.7%. It continues to be well below our target of 96% and just below the national average. Attendance for pupils in receipt of PPG was particularly affected (91.2%). For a number of disadvantaged pupils, attendance was affected by family circumstances and mental health challenges which arise from high levels of deprivation, the cost of living crisis and low parental engagement. A number of disadvantaged families had high levels of persistent and unauthorised absence. The school worked closely with these families to improve attendance, making use of outside agencies where necessary.

Our assessments and observations indicate that pupil behaviour, resilience, concentration and wellbeing and mental health continue to be impacted. The use of

pastoral and behaviour support have led to improvements in these over the course of the year. However, due to budgetary constraints, our capacity to provide emotional, wellbeing and mental health support to pupils, including the disadvantaged, through therapists and learning mentors continues to be compromised.

Additionally, the cost of living crisis continued to place our disadvantaged families under increased financial pressure and the school ensured that we supported them with the provision of food, uniform and subsidised fees.

*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
Spelling Shed	Ed Shed
Handwriting	Letter-Join
PSHE	TenTen
Phonics	Little Wandle
Maths	White Rose
Computing	Kapow