St Nicholas C of E Primary

Pupil Premium Policy

Adopted: February 2024 **Reviewed: February 2025**

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Pupil Premium is a Government initiative that targets extra money at pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, which research shows are more likely to underachieve compared to their peers. The funding is provided with the express intention of supporting these pupils in achieving their full potential.

1.2 Children who are registered for free school meals (FSM6) will automatically qualify for pupil premium funding for 6 years.

1.3 The Government has also allocated a fixed amount of money to schools per pupil classified as 'vulnerable' either because of their special educational needs or circumstances.

1.4 Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium monies, which is additional to the underlying schools budget, in a way they think will best support the raising of attainment for the most vulnerable pupils.

1.5 While the money is awarded on a per child basis, the funds are not to be spent each year on a particular child; the money is pooled and allocated according to need in order to 'close the gap'.

1.6 The targeted and strategic use of Pupil Premium will support us in achieving our vision of closing the attainment gap and accelerating progress across the School.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of our pupils.

2.2 We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, this includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed.

2.3 While making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.

2.4 We recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil, or groups of pupils, the school has identified as being socially disadvantaged. Every project or initiative funded by the Pupil Premium funding will benefit at least one of the FSM6 children.

2.5 Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs assessment, which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals. Limited resources may mean that not all children receiving free school meals will be in receipt of pupil premium interventions at one time although they will all benefit throughout the course of each academic year.

2.6 The pupil premium for fund will include pupils recorded in the October school census and alternative provision census, who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order). These are collectively referred to as post-LAC in these conditions of grant.

3. PROVISION

3.1 The range of provision the Leadership Team and Governing Body consider making for this group could include:

- Providing small group work with an experienced teacher focused on overcoming gaps in learning;
- 1-to-1 support;
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided by trained Teaching Assistants or external agencies;
- Resources to meet the need of particular individuals or groups of pupils;
- Memorable opportunities created for pupils;
- Developing parental engagement and aspirations;
- Training for staff; • Cultural enrichment; or • Emotional support.

3.2 Our work through the Pupil Premium will be aimed at accelerating progress in English (reading, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling) and Maths, moving children to at least age related expectations.

3.3 Pupil Premium resources may also be used to target able FSM6 children in order for them to work at 'greater depth' at the end of Key Stage 1 or the end of Key Stage 2.

3.4 The Leadership Team will seek to engage with teaching staff and parents/carers to tailor the provision offered.

3.5 As part of the additional provision made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, each Governing Body sub-committee will be responsible for monitoring an aspect of the Pupil Premium:

- The Finance committee for the Pupil Premium Budget.
- Performance and Standards committee for the monitoring of the inclusion of all eligible pupils and their attainment and progress.
- Staffing and Personnel committee for monitoring additional staffing funded by the Pupil Premium.

4. STRATEGY

4.1 Decisions on how the Pupil Premium is spent is detailed in the three-year strategy which can be found on the school's website.

4.2 The strategy is informed by research evidence and this evidence is referenced within the strategy.

4.3 The strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure the identified challenges and intended outcomes remain relevant.

5. REPORTING

5.1 It will be the responsibility of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) in conjunction with the Headteacher to produce termly reports for the Governing Body that include:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by each individual, against national averages;
- An outline of the provision that was made during the term since the last meeting;
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision.

4.2 The Governing Body will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents detailing how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'closing the gap' for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department for Education and will appear on the School's website.

6. APPEALS

6.1 Any appeals against this policy will be through the School's *Complaints Procedure* which is available on the school website.

7. EVALUATION – SUCCESS CRITERIA

7.1 The evaluation of this policy is based on how quickly the school can 'close the gap' between socially disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

7.2 The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for socially disadvantaged children.
- The vast majority of socially disadvantaged children will meet their individual targets.
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils.
- Having a whole-school approach.
- Creating a positive school atmosphere in which pupils' differences are recognised and valued as full members of the school community
- Developing confident and independent learners.
- Parents are engaged and involved in their children's learning.