



Pupil Premium Policy

Dated: December 2024

Renewal date: December 2025

The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England. It's designed to help disadvantaged pupils of all abilities perform better, and close the gap between them and their peers.

At St Matthews it is our vision for those in receipt of Pupil Premium is to:

Work in partnership with parents, the main role of this school is:

- to keep pupils safe and happy;
- to provide basic core education for all our pupils in reading, writing, maths and science;
- to look for potential in every child and find ways for it to be fulfilled, whether this is by overcoming barriers to learning or providing challenge;
- to provide a rich and balanced curriculum and range of learning experiences that will encourage:
 - self-confidence and self-esteem;
 - resilience and perseverance;
 - a love of learning;
 - empathy and consideration for others, including an understanding of individual responsibilities;
 - both independence and collaboration;
 - the ability to problem-solve;
 - a healthy lifestyle.

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium conditions of grant guidance (2017-18), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. It is also based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium, and the service premium. In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on what maintained schools must publish online.

PUPIL PREMIUM

The Government gives grants to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. In the main, the grant is allocated to pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in any of the previous six years, service children in mainstream schools and 'looked-after' children.

These groups of children have been identified nationally as achieving at a lower level than children from less disadvantaged backgrounds. For example, national figures show that 11 year olds who are eligible for Free School Meals are around twice as likely not to achieve Age Related Expectations (ARE) in maths

and English as other 11 year olds. A requirement of the School Information Regulations 2012 is for each school to publish the pupil premium allocation online.

The reports should include:

- The amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year;
- Details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent;
- Details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent;
- The impact of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at our school in respect of whom the grant was allocated.

Aims for Pupil Premium Policy

The targeted and strategic use of Pupil Premium will support us in achieving our aim of looking for potential in every child and finding ways for it to be fulfilled.

As a school, we do this by:

- assuring the best possible delivery of learning experiences in the classroom
- keeping classes small
- providing a range of group and individual interventions designed to support those with identified needs
- offering a rich and varied menu of activities designed to engage and motivate pupils, raising their aspirations and creating a positive view of life and learning
- involving parents in how we spend the money through termly pupil premium workshops with staff, governors and parents

Principles

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all pupils.
- 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.
- In making provision for pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium, we recognise that they are not all socially disadvantaged. We also 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 legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged in addition to any identified Special Educational Need.

Provision

The range of provision the Governors may consider making for this group could include:

- achievement and standards work including additional class-based intervention work to accelerate progress of targeted groups of individuals, primarily literacy and numeracy;
- pastoral work which undertakes work to raise self-esteem and support children to make appropriate choices in order to maximise learning opportunities;
- providing additional ICT access and homework support for those who do not have it at home;
- enrichment to ensure that children are given opportunities to develop other talents in sport, music and creativity to also improve self-confidence and motivation for school which can have a positive impact on pupil progress and attainment (e.g. music lessons, funding school trips for those unable to pay, subsidising enrichment activities, curriculum swimming lessons).
Opportunity to be involved in sporting activities such as Fit for Life.

All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress moving children to at least age related expectations.

Measuring Impact

The Class Teacher and the Pupil Premium Champion will monitor and analyse the progress of pupils receiving Pupil Premium using our tracking system and by our more informal assessment of the wellbeing and emotional health of our pupils.

Weekly meetings will take place between the class teacher and TA / interventions teacher. Pupil progress meetings will take place every term and set the schedule of intervention and support for the next term to help close any gaps in knowledge.

Updating the tracking system to ensure that all intervention groups are included and targets achieved.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the Pupil Premium Champion, to produce regular reports for the Governors on:

- The progress made towards 'narrowing the gap' for socially disadvantaged pupils;
- An outline of the provision in place at school;
- An evaluation of the effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by pupils receiving a particular provision.

The Governing Body have appointed a Pupil Premium Lead Governor, who supports and challenges the school on how it spends the funding and its impact. The Governors of the school will ensure that there is an annual statement published to explain how and how effectively the Pupil Premium funding has been used. This task will be carried out in accordance with any requirements published by the Department for Education. Please note that individual circumstances can impact upon the data and information related to this may not be published due to confidentiality but could be made available to the Chair of Governors, the Local Authority or Ofsted if required.

See our website for our Pupil Premium Strategy Statement and Pupil Premium Grant Report.