

Pupil premium strategy statement

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



This statement details our school's use of pupil premium 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	210
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	9.5%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2025/2026 to 2028/2029
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Jo Berry Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Natalie Vale Assistant Head teacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Paul Phillips

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£41,619
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	0
Total budget for this academic year If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£41,619

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 are 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
- Create partnerships with families to promote educational opportunities and outcomes
- Support pupils to have opportunities that go beyond that classroom such as access to a variety of clubs and leadership opportunities within the school

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Writing</p> <p>Evidence from internal and external assessments shows that attainment and progress among disadvantaged pupils are below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.</p>
2	<p>Reading and phonics</p> <p>Evidence from internal and external assessments shows that attainment and progress among disadvantaged pupils are below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.</p>
3	<p>Maths</p> <p>Evidence from internal and external assessments shows that attainment and progress among disadvantaged pupils are below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.</p>
4	<p>Vocabulary acquisition</p> <p>Evidence from internal and external assessments shows that attainment and progress among disadvantaged pupils are below that of non-disadvantaged pupils. Poor vocabulary impacts upon pupils ability to achieve across all curriculum subjects.</p>
5	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Our attendance data in previous years indicated that attendance among disadvantaged pupils was lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. St Mary's pupil premium attendance is currently 95% and higher than FFT pupil premium national, we want to ensure this continues.</p> <p>Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress- including arriving late to school.</p>
6	<p>Wellbeing and Mental Health</p> <p>Observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Everyday technology is evolving and inappropriate content is increasingly accessible.</p>
7	<p>Enrichment Opportunities</p> <p>Discussions with pupils have identified a lack of enrichment opportunities.</p>

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
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Improved outcomes in reading.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2028/29 show that 90% (based on government target From Levelling Up White Paper) of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved outcomes in phonics.	KS1 phonics outcomes in 2028/29 show that more than 90% (based on previous school results) of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved outcomes in writing.	KS2 writing outcomes in 2028/29 show that more than 90% (based on government target From Levelling Up White Paper) of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved outcomes in maths.	KS2 maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 90% (based on government target From Levelling Up White Paper) of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved vocabulary acquisition which will impact on outcomes across the curriculum.	Outcomes across the curriculum will increase as a result of direct vocabulary instruction. This will be evidenced in both external and internal assessments. Pupil book study will show that pupils have a wider vocabulary and are able to talk about their learning using the key vocabulary they have been taught.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils. Data from ISDR/ FFT used to set attendance targets.	Sustained high attendance by 2025/26 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 4%, with no gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers. •the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 5%.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high levels of wellbeing by 2025/26 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations.
To provide a coherently planned programme of enrichment activities.	A significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils. A variety of quality enrichment activities, many of which enhance curriculum provision.

Activity in this academic year

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

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £22,345

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Subscription to PiXL diagnostic tools and assessments. Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly. £2,700	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: Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1, 2, 3
Subscription to CUSP and evidence based, knowledge rich curriculum. Explicit vocabulary instruction is at the heart of this curriculum. Training for staff to ensure they apply the principles of cognitive science effectively and every child has access to QFT. £400	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/cognitive-science-approaches-in-the-classroom Supporting high quality teaching is pivotal in improving children's outcomes. Indeed, research tells us that high quality teaching can narrow the disadvantage gap.	1,2,4,7
CPD- NCETM Maths Mastery Specialist Programme to raise standards in mathematics across the school £450	https://www.ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs-projects/primary-mastery-specialist-programme/ Access to new resources to roll out the programme and ensure that children are able to access the resources they need in order to succeed with this programme.	3

	Teaching for depth, developing maths professional, introduce a coherent teaching for mastery approach.	
Implementation of Ten:Ten programme for PSHE and RSE £795	Evidence suggests that children from disadvantaged backgrounds have, on average, weaker SEL skills at all ages than their more affluent peers. These skills are likely to influence a range of outcomes for pupils: lower SEL skills are linked with poorer mental health and lower academic attainment. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning	6
Maximising the impact of teaching assistants. Strategic leadership training and implementation. £18,000	Teaching assistant interventions have an impact through providing additional support for pupils that is targeted to their needs. In order to have the desired effect schools might consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Careful assessment of pupils' needs so that teaching assistants support is well targeted - Training teaching assistants so that interactions are high quality – for example, using well-evidenced targeted programmes - Ensuring that any interventions are well-linked to classroom content and do not reduce high quality interactions with teachers https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions	1,2,3,4

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

Budgeted cost: £15,750

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks:	1

require further phonics support. £5,750	Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	
Additional reading sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further support. £2,500	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. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies	1
Additional before school reading groups £2,500	Reading comprehension strategies have a high impact for a low cost based on a strong evidence base. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies	1
Pixl small group interventions for maths, reading and writing across KS2. £5,000	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition Small group tuition is most effective if it is targeted at pupils specific needs. Diagnostic assessment can be used as the best way to target support.be	1,2,3

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

Budgeted cost: £6,143

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Improving School Attendance advice.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file	4

Appointing attendance officer 1 day a week to improve attendance.	/1076127/School attendance guidance May-2022 .pdf	
<p>To provide ELSA support at St Mary's.</p> <p>1 day per week plus half termly supervisions</p> <p>£1,000</p>	<p>ELSA intervention is an individualised (or sometimes group) programme for children with significant social and emotional difficulties. The work is planned around the needs of the individual child.</p> <p>https://www.elsanetwork.org/elsa-network/evaluation-reports/</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/SEL/EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf</p>	5
<p>Drawing and talking</p> <p>£85</p>	<p>Drawing and Talking is a therapeutic intervention for children. It utilises drawing as a way to help children express their feelings differently in ordinary verbal language. The Drawing and Talking therapeutic approach allows individuals to discover and communicate emotions through a non-directed technique.</p> <p>https://drawingandtalking.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CORC-Report-Drawing-and-Talking_.pdf</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/SEL/EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf</p>	5
<p>Sensory circuits</p> <p>£500</p>	<p>A sensory circuit is a form of sensory integration intervention. It involves a sequence of physical activities that are designed to alert, organise and calm the child. The sensory circuit aims to facilitate sensory processing to help children regulate and organise their senses in order to achieve the 'just right' or optimum level of alertness required for effective learning.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/SEL/EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf</p>	5

Whole staff training on trauma informed practice £500	Behaviour interventions seek to improve attainment by reducing challenging behaviour in school. Both targeted interventions and universal approaches have positive overall effects. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/behaviour-interventions	5,6
Develop and resource a coherently planned programme of enrichment activities. Bassitry Author Artist Planetarium Sports clubs Lunchtime and afterschool clubs Music lessons Trips £3658	Arts participation approaches can have a positive impact on academic outcomes in other areas of the curriculum. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/arts-participation Physical activity has a positive impact on academic attainment. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/physical-activity The curriculum provided by school should extend beyond the academic, technical or vocational. Ofsted	5,6
Contingency fund for acute issues. £400	Based on our experiences we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	All

Total budgeted cost: £44,238

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year 2024-2025

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

In 2025, there were 5 disadvantaged pupils in year 6. 60% achieved expected in RWM combined. This is not in line with the national combined figure of 62%. 1 of our disadvantaged pupils were expected in all areas except writing. In maths, 100% of disadvantaged pupils achieved expected, this is above the national figure of 74%. In reading, 80% of disadvantaged pupils achieved expected, this is above the national figure of 75%. In writing, 60% of disadvantaged pupils achieved expected, this is not in line with the national figure of 72%.

In year 2, there were 2 disadvantaged pupils. 50% achieved expected in reading, this is slightly below the national of 59%. In maths, 50% achieved expected which is below the national of 73%. 50% of disadvantaged pupils achieved expected in writing which is below the national of 64%. As there are only 2 pupils who are disadvantaged, this has caused the data to drop by 50% in each subject area.

In year 1, 1 pupil was disadvantaged and passed the phonics screening check with full marks. The whole year group achieved a 100% pass mark!

There were 2 disadvantaged pupil in EYFS, both children have achieved GLD, this is above the national of 69%.

The attendance of disadvantaged pupils for 2024/25 was 95% above national of 94.8% (FFT national for FSM is 91%). This is an increased figure of last year's data of 94.6%.

Persistent absence for pupils in receipt of premium pupil funding was 22.9% this is lower than the FFT national of 26.6%.

Cultural capital has been enhanced by providing access to extra-curricular clubs both during lunchtime and after school. In 2025, all disadvantaged pupils attended an extra-curricular club. Our extra-curricular offer included orchestra, choir, football, dodgeball, cricket, street dance, British sign language, reading, board games, mindfulness colouring, art and more.

Experiences such as Arts week, music tuition, Artist visits, Author visits, and Dance East are planned in a coherent manner to enrich our curriculum offer.

Pupils are encouraged to take on positions of responsibility in school, including, School Council, Safeguarding Council, Mini Vinnies and play leaders. Pupils are very keen to

take on these roles and this enables them to develop a set of positive personal traits and dispositions so that they can behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others.

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
Infant Language Link	Speech Link Multimedia Ltd
Junior Language Link	Speech Link Multimedia Ltd
Boxall	Boxall
PiXI	PiXI
Insight Tracking	Insight
Emotional literacy support	Psychology First
Drawing and Talking Therapy	Drawing and Talking Therapy

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

At St Mary's there is currently 1 pupil in receipt of service pupil premium funding.

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	Included within the main pupil premium budget.
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	Access to additional interventions and support services.

Pupil premium strategy outcomes 2024-2025

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
Improved outcomes in reading.	In 2025 50% of Year 2 and 80% of Year 6 PP achieved the expected standard in reading.

Improved outcomes in phonics.	In 2025 100% of PP children achieved the pass mark of 32 in the Phonics Screening Check. The whole class achieved a pass mark of 100%.
Improved outcome in writing.	In 2025 50% of Year 2 pupils and 60% of Year 6 PP achieved the expected standard in writing. This continues to be a focus area on our SIP.
Improved outcomes in maths.	In 2025 50% of Year 2 and 100% of Year 6 PP achieved the expected standard in maths.
Improved vocabulary acquisition which will impact on outcomes across the curriculum	In 2023 Ofsted remarked that vocabulary was a key strength within the school and contributed to progress for all pupils across the school. We continue to adopt the same strategy across our curriculum and is supporting our results within reading.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Overall attendance was 95.9%, this higher than the previous year and FFT National attendance.</p> <p>Overall attendance for the disadvantaged pupils was 94.6%. This is 2.8% more than the FFT National average for disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>7% of disadvantaged pupils have persistent absence. This is lower than national of XX%. This is a significant improvement of 10%.</p>
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Ofsted 2024 commented "the school nurtures open minded, kind and compassionate individuals."
To provide a coherently planned programme of enrichment activities.	Continue to extend club offer for pupils before, during and after school. All disadvantaged pupils are given priority to ensure they attend at least one club in a year.

Further information (optional)

Additional activity

- Breakfast club
- Fully funded places at a variety of before and after school clubs
- Free lunchtime clubs

Planning, implementation and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, book scrutiny, conversations with pupils, teachers and parents in order to identify the challenges faces by disadvantaged pupils.

We looked at a number of reports, studies and research papers about 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 studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.

We used the documents listed below to help us develop our strategy, particularly the 'explore' phase to help us diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium>

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

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/implementation>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit>

We continue to evaluate and review this framework for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils.