

Pupil Premium Policy – 2023/2024

St. Michael's Nursery and Infant School



Pupil Premium Lead – Mrs. Candice Regan

Introduction

The Pupil Premium is an allocation of additional funding given to schools in order to support specific groups of children who are vulnerable to possible underachievement. The intended effect of this funding is to accelerate progress and raise attainment.

The Pupil Premium is a government initiative that targets extra money at pupils from deprived backgrounds. Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The Pupil Premium funding is provided to enable these pupils to be supported to reach their potential.

The Government has used pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM), looked after children and service children as indicators of deprivation and has provided a fixed amount of money for schools per pupil based on the number of pupils registered for FSM over a rolling six-year period.

At St. Michael's Nursery and Infant School, we will be using the indicator of those eligible for FSM, as well as identified vulnerable groups as our target children to 'close the gap' regarding attainment.

The amount of Pupil Premium funding our school receives is calculated according to the number of pupils who meet the eligibility criteria set by the government. At St Michael's, this is approximately 30% of the children. The school is accountable for using this funding to raise the achievement of the less advantaged children in our community using the Education Endowment Foundation research recommendations.

Context

When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school and the subsequent challenges faced. This alongside research conducted by the EEF.

Common barriers to learning for disadvantaged children, can be less support at home, weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, more frequent behaviour difficulties and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied and there is no “one size fits all”.

We will ensure that all teaching staff are involved in the analysis of data and identification of pupils, so that they are fully aware of strengths and weaknesses across the school.

Principles

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all the 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 socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be 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.
- Pupil premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals. Limited funding and resources mean that not all children receiving free school meals will be in receipt of pupil premium interventions at one time.

Provision

The range of provision the Governors and Headteacher consider making for this group could include and would not be inclusive of:

- Reducing class sizes thus improving opportunities for effective teaching and accelerating progress
- Providing small group work with an experienced teacher/teaching assistant focussed on overcoming gaps in learning
- 1-1 support
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through trained LSAs or external agencies
- All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age-related expectations.
- Pupil premium resources may also be used to target able children on Free School Meals to achieve Age Related Expectations.
- Transition from infant to juniors.
- Additional learning support.
- Pay for all activities, educational visits and residentials. Ensuring children have first-hand experiences to use in their learning in the classroom.
- Support the funding of specialist learning software.
- PE provision
- Music provision
- Behaviour support

This list is not exhausted and will change according to the needs and support our socially disadvantaged pupils require.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the headteacher, or a delegated member of staff, to produce the DFE Pupil Premium Strategy template and to show on the school website. In addition, the headteacher will produce regular reports for the Governing Body, which will include:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision that was made since the last meeting.

- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.
- The Governors of the school will ensure that there is an annual Pupil Premium Strategy displayed on the website using the DFE guidance so parents (and the DFE) can see how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing 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 our school website.

Reviewed by: Candice Regan (Headteacher)

Date: 13th November 2023

Next Review Date: 1st September 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Regan', written in a cursive style.