

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2021 to 2022 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	Smithills School
Number of pupils in school	1038
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	43%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2021/22- 2024/25
Date this statement was published	December 2021
Date on which it will be reviewed	Termly
Statement authorised by	M Sidebottom Principal
Pupil premium lead	A Scholefield Assistant Vice Principal
Governor / Trustee lead	M Crossley

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£447,591
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£63, 365.00
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	£510, 956.00

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

At Smithills School we have high aspirations and ambitions for our children and we believe that no child should be left behind. When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school and the subsequent challenges faced. Common barriers for FSM 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'.

Raising the attainment and progress of our disadvantaged pupils is a key priority at Smithills School. The impact of the recent spend is evident in the improvements in the GCSE exam results, the improving progress of pupils at KS3 and the comprehensive academic programme.

We still have areas to address and will be doing so throughout the next academic year. For example, we will continue to raise the attainment and progress of our higher banding disadvantage pupils and disadvantaged pupils in certain subject areas and provide tailored, personalised interventions to accelerate progress.

At Smithills School we advocate a holistic approach; working with all stakeholders to develop versatile, well-rounded individuals who achieve their full potential and have a positive impact in society. Consequently, we will continue to fund enrichment activities outside the classroom and ensure our pupils are fully supported in school.

This is being used to benefit pupils across years 7 to 11 and provides and/or supports the following three key objectives:

To improve learning in the classroom

To remove barriers to learning

To provide enrichment beyond the classroom

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>The literacy skills of disadvantaged pupils are generally poorer than that of other pupils.</p> <p>Assessments across all year groups show the reading age of disadvantaged pupils is 11.1 years and spelling age of 12.3 years. The gap in reading age is</p>

	largest in year 7 and 8 (4.4 years in reading age for year 7 and 8 and 0.8 years for spelling in year 7, 0.7 years in year 8)
2	Numeracy rates are poorer for pupil premium pupils upon entry to the school. Assessments on entry to the school show an average SAS score of 91 for disadvantaged pupils in numeracy compared to 95 for other pupils.
3	Our in house tracking demonstrates that, in general, pupil premium pupils have a poorer attendance than other pupils. 26% of pupil premium pupils have been 'persistently absent', compared to 21% of all other pupils during that period.
4	Our observations and tracking demonstrate that pupil premium pupils have a lower engagement rate in terms of wider curriculum opportunities. This is particularly true for disadvantaged boys.
5	Assessment data, data collection from mentors and the pastoral team suggest that partial school closures have had a disproportionately large effect on our pupil premium pupils. This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps in many areas of the curriculum, but in particular within maths.
6	In house assessment data, intervention data and observations suggest that the reading comprehension levels of pupil premium pupils are significantly behind their peers. This impacts across the curriculum. Reading ages are lower for disadvantaged pupils on entry to the school (9.7 years compared to 10.1 years for their peers)

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
Raise attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils through the implementation of a broad and balanced curriculum, which takes account of knowledge gaps.	Disadvantaged pupils will perform in line with other pupils nationally.
Improved literacy skills within the KS3 disadvantaged cohort.	Reduction in gaps for reading and spelling ages of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils and rapid improvement. Work scrutiny through quality assurance process demonstrates an improvement in literacy skills of disadvantaged pupils.
To support higher attainment and engagement in Maths and Science through the implementation of STEM based learning.	Gaps analysis of year group data entry demonstrates a reduction in the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils within Maths and Science. Teacher and pupil voice indicates an increase in engagement of

	disadvantaged pupils. Engagement in STEM extra curricula activities demonstrates engagement of disadvantaged pupils.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for disadvantaged pupils.	The overall absence gap between non disadvantaged and disadvantaged pupils to be 0% by 2024/25. The percentage of pupils persistently absent being below national average and the gap between disadvantaged and other pupils being 0% by 2024/25.
To increase the participation in enrichment and extra-curricular activities by disadvantaged pupils.	Attendance data at extra-curricular activities demonstrates that disadvantaged pupils are proportionally represented at these events (43% in 2021/22) Where barriers have existed to engagement in extra-curricular activities, clear strategies are evident in an attempt to overcome them.
Improved reading comprehension levels within the disadvantaged cohort of KS3.	Reading age of disadvantaged pupils rapidly improves from entry to the school. Gap between disadvantaged and other pupils narrows from year 7 onwards. QA demonstrates an effort for reading skills to be developed in the classroom and an increased engagement of pupils in reading activities.

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: £158,049.00

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To reduce the core subject gap in order that disadvantaged pupils perform as well as others nationally.	'Research acknowledges that underachievement is heavily linked to social, cultural and economic factors that are hard to shift. Barriers to learning faced by these pupils are mostly concerned with language and literacy. [Furthermore] there are other issues to consider, such as independence and resilience and pupils who give up easily, who find it difficult to work collaboratively or who find it difficult to manage their time. However, much of the problem of underachievement is about poor aspiration and engagement in learning. Many of our young people lack self-belief and are easily distracted from learning or have difficulties in understanding its relevance.' Kenny Frederick (<i>Principal of George Green's school and a member of the National Association of Head Teachers executive</i>)	1,2,4,5,6
To develop and promote literacy and numeracy across the school for disadvantaged pupils	Phonics approaches have been consistently found to be effective in supporting younger readers to master the basics of reading, with an average impact of an additional four months' progress. Research suggests that phonics is particularly beneficial for younger learners (4-7 year olds) as they begin to read. (EEF toolkit)	1,2,6
To improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in Maths and Science through the development of STEM based learning.	"it is not a leap to suggest that those who build a solid foundation in STEM subjects and learning throughout their studies will not only be more employable in the future, but in fact more equipped for the future in general." Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge	2,3,4

To ensure that disadvantaged pupils have access to quality first teaching with a particular focus on improving reading	“Pupils who can read are overwhelmingly more likely to succeed at school, achieve good qualifications, and subsequently enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career. In addition to its substantial practical benefits, reading is one of life’s profound joys.” Reading: the Next Steps, DfE, March 2015	1,2,3,5,6
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £323,683

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To provide transition support to ensure that all DP pupils make a positive start to secondary school	“Success in navigating transition can not only affect children’s academic performance, but also their general sense of well-being and mental health” Waters et al. 2012	3,4,5
To safeguard all pupils	‘All organisations that work with or come into contact with children should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity, can be protected from harm’. NSPCC (Safeguarding Children)	3,4
To improve attainment and progress by focusing on improving behaviour for learning through interventions which support pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs	+4 months impact. ‘Evidence suggests that behaviour interventions can produce large improvements in academic performance along with a decrease in problematic behaviours’ and ‘interventions which target social and emotional learning...have an identifiable and significant impact on attitudes to learning, social relationships in school, and attainment itself (on average around three to four months additional progress).’ EEF ‘Research which focuses on teaching assistants who provide one to one or small group support shows a strong positive benefit of between three and five additional months on average. Often support is based on a clearly specified approach which teaching assistants have been trained to deliver’ EEF	3,4,5

To meet the needs of pupils who require extra support & ensure they have access to Emotional and Well-Being advice	'School-based humanistic counselling can bring about significant reductions in psychological distress...emotionally distressed young people value an opportunity to talk and be listened to in a confidential environment; and with a counsellor who is trustworthy, friendly and easy to relate to' Professor Mick Cooper (<i>The Psychologist</i>)	3, 5
To raise the attendance of Pupil Premium children	'PP pupils in secondary schools are 3 times more likely to become persistent absentees than their peers and 3 times more likely to receive two or more fixed term exclusions across the year. Pupils who are not present are not engaged in the full curriculum experience and therefore may not make as much progress as those whose attendance is acceptable.'	3,5
An alternative curriculum, focusing on life skills, for a small group of targeted SEND/Disadvantaged pupils	The aim is to support young people in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Becoming confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially healthy ▪ Being responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to society and embrace change ▪ Developing skills which prepare the individual for independence and working life Managing the risk together with their own wellbeing Asdan	1,2,3

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

Budgeted cost: £29,224

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To continue to improve the number of disadvantaged pupils going into further education or employment	"Longitudinal studies suggest that the way in which teenagers think about their futures in education and employment has a significant impact on what becomes of them as working adults. Teenagers who have effectively underestimated the education required for their desired profession, for example, are statistically more likely to end up NEET. In addition, young people	4,5,3

	from poorer backgrounds are more likely to have career aspirations that are misaligned with their educational ambitions” Careers education: International literature review, EEF	
Pupil Premium Discretionary Fund: To provide pupils with additional opportunities that make education fun and meaningful	‘A holistic approach seeks to empower children to use their academic learning as a foothold for their emotional and social development. The approach motivates children to learn about a subject. It instills <i>curiosity</i> and allows children to learn naturally and creatively...preparing] children to become well-rounded adults’. Scholar Base (<i>Why Holistic Education is Important</i>)	3,4,5,6
To enrich Disadvantaged pupils’ curriculum experience through a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes cultural capital.	Adventure education usually involves collaborative learning experiences with a high level of physical (and often emotional) challenge. Practical problem-solving, explicit reflection and discussion of thinking and emotion (see also Metacognition and self-regulation) may also be involved (Educational Endowment Foundation)	3,4,5

Total budgeted cost: £510,956.00

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 2020 to 2021 academic year.

i. To Improve Learning in the Classroom			
Desired outcome	Chosen action / approach	Estimated Impact: Did you meet the success criteria? Include impact on pupils not eligible for PP if appropriate.	Lessons learned (and whether you will continue with this approach)
The core subjects gap is reduced so that disadvantaged pupils are performing in line with others nationally	AVP Whole School Data to lead on identify & monitor groups of pupils for interventions & share this information with relevant stakeholders	Data systems bespoke for the disadvantaged cohort so as to allow for early identification of underperformance were used to enable staff to intervene in the early stages of 2021-22. Data analysis was used to ensure that TAGs did not reflect any bias towards the disadvantaged cohort and that they performed in line with expectation and within results from previous years. Analysis of years below Y11 have allowed for the identification of disadvantaged pupils that will form the basis of subject analysis in the next academic year. Progress gaps between DP and OP was 0.03 – This is an in house measure comparing disadvantaged pupils to non-disadvantaged pupils at Smithills School. Relative indicators in the last set of National data showed that the gap from National was continuing to reduce. Year 10 gaps show a continued reduction of gaps of progress between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. 0.14	To continue with this strategy and increase the focus on MADP pupils in 2021/22. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on obtaining baseline data to measure progress in line with national expectations. The school closure period has shown that greater collaboration between school data and engagement data needs to form the basis of the year ahead. To provide core subjects with reliable baseline data, GL assessments have been used to identify knowledge gaps that subjects are working to remove.

<p>To ensure that disadvantaged pupils have access to resources to enable them to perform as well as others nationally</p>	<p>Provide resources to ensure pupils have access to remote learning opportunities to complement their studies in school</p>	<p>Pupils in greatest need received laptops to access remote learning opportunities. Strong tracking systems were in place during school closures to monitor both the academic progress and engagement of pupils during this time. Investment was made into the school's IT infrastructure that directly benefited the disadvantaged cohort.</p>	<p>To continue to embed the use of TEAMS for every pupil so that it becomes part of their everyday diet. In particular, to embed the use of the Cloud Design Box for staff to realise this objective.</p>
<p>To ensure that disadvantaged pupils have access to quality first teaching with a particular focus on improving reading</p>	<p>Staff training with a focus on ensuring a high quality curriculum is in place across the school</p>	<p>Reciprocal reading strategies have started during the school year 2020/21 and continue to be embedded for disadvantaged pupils across the school. Pupils are baselined using the NGRT and this information is used to support the individual need.</p>	<p>The value of the NGRT data has informed future planning to include NGST, maths, science and English progress reports. Baseline reading and spelling tests have taken place. This information will form the basis of future teaching. The impact of this strategy will be measured once the test is taken again in the Spring of 2022.</p>
<p>To facilitate accelerated levels of literacy for disadvantaged pupils</p>	<p>Intensive reading programme with selected cohorts to improve reading ages within a rapid timeframe</p>	<p>Literacy is a key whole-school focus which will continue into the next school year.</p>	<p>Investment has been made to identify knowledge gaps by using GL assessment for KS3. This is a new strategy that will continue into 2021 - 2022.</p>
<p>To improve outcomes & rates of progress in mathematics & numeracy levels for disadvantaged pupils</p>	<p>Increase the leadership capacity within the mathematics department with a focus on ensuring a high quality curriculum</p>	<p>The increased leadership allowed for greater scrutiny of pupil performance data with a particular focus on the disadvantaged cohort. Results in 2020/21 indicate that the disadvantaged cohort performed in line with their in house peers. Earlier years/use of GL assessment gaps data DP specific. There was a marginal improvement in the 9 – 7 results from 9% to 11%. The TAGs were agreed as accurate as part of the level 3 quality assurance external procedures.</p>	<p>The curriculum redesign that has taken place has put a high quality curriculum that is at the centre of the improvements to be made. An action plan is in place and the leadership are being supported to ensure that all pupils receive a high quality diet.</p>

ii. To Remove Barriers to Learning			
Desired outcome	Chosen action / approach	Estimated Impact: Did you meet the success criteria? Include impact on pupils not eligible for PP if appropriate.	Lessons learned (and whether you will continue with this approach)
To safeguard all pupils	Dedicated safeguarding officer	Safeguarding is strong & is a strength of the school. This will be continued in the current form.	The safeguarding provision is effective - this strategy will continue.
To meet the needs of pupils who require extra support & ensure that they have access to Emotional & Well-Being advice	Provision of a school counselor & a member of staff overseeing well-being strategies. Dedicated pastoral staff for both KS3 & KS4 provide additional support for pupils	Ongoing - Pupil take up of this service is increasing and pupils engagement with Well-Being strategies was good during the school closure. Mental health awareness was raised by use of a weekly bulletin that form tutors use with pupils. During the time of national school closures form tutors were given guidance on how to best support pupils at risk of falling further behind and stayed in touch with their forms on a regular basis.	The strategies used will continue. Work will be done to ensure that all staff are aware of the needs of the disadvantaged cohort.
To provide transition support to ensure that all disadvantaged pupils make a positive start to secondary school	Dedicated member of staff working on transition into secondary school	Transition allowed for a smooth start of the academic year as the team were aware of issues arising prior to the start of the academic year. The summer school allowed for pupils to develop their social skills and reduce anxiety. 59% of the cohort attended the summer school which met with a positive response.	The strategies used will continue.
To raise the attendance of disadvantaged pupils across the school	Strengthening of the attendance team to understand and remove barriers for non-attendance	This is continuing to improve & the driving force behind the whole school improvement supports this aspect as the culture of the school & the development of a love of learning continues to improve	The strategies used will continue.
To provide bespoke support to pupils at risk of ex-	Creation of the Inclusion and Engagement team to work with pupils with	This strategy has proved very successful as the rate of exclusions has dropped significantly with the pupils identified to work with a	Due to the disruption last year the impact of this strategy was limited. Early indicators showed that the use of mentors to support

clusion to ensure they have access to the curriculum	significant needs	mentor. The in class support has allowed pupils at significant risk of exclusion to access a full curriculum.	pupils at risk of exclusion in mainstream lessons was effective. The academic year 2021/2022 will allow for greater impact to be shown.
iii. To Provide Enrichment Beyond the Classroom			
Desired outcome	Chosen action / approach	Estimated Impact: Did you meet the success criteria? Include impact on pupils not eligible for PP if appropriate.	Lessons learned (and whether you will continue with this approach)
To develop cultural capital so that all disadvantaged pupils have an awareness of the wider world	Development of the curriculum to ensure that pupils are exposed to why they are learning something and how it is relevant to them	The impact of this is ongoing and is evident in the work pupils undertake on a daily basis	Following the resumption of extra-curricular opportunities, enrichment will be a key focus for the school. Enrichment opportunities will be evidenced through the curriculum plans.
To continue to improve the number of pupils going into further education or employment	Careers advisory service with the employment of a full-time IAG officer & work experience opportunity	Careers have worked with pupils remotely during the time that the pandemic made it challenging for pupils to access the workplace. As a result the NEET figure has increased but strategies are in place to reduce this. NEET data shows a decline year on year at Smithills (with the exception of 2020 and covid) 4/6 NEET moved into EET by FEB 2021.	Funding for careers will continue for the coming year to support the needs of all pupils. In particular the funding made available will support disadvantaged pupils to plan their post 16 progression and also will try to ensure that the NEET figure reduces.
To ensure that disadvantaged pupils have access to extra-curricular activities & support to improve their educational outcomes	Regular targeted sessions to improve progress in Year 11 in addition to improved access to remote learning	The role of the director of learning changed during the time of forced school closures. As a result, monitoring and measuring the engagement of progress of the disadvantaged cohort became the core focus.	To track the disadvantaged cohort in year 11: In particular with reference to extra-curricular/careers/aspirations

<p>The use of the discretionary fund - To provide additional opportunities to make learning meaningful</p>	<p>To provide additional funds to remove barriers & make learning enjoyable</p>	<p>During the period of school closure significant efforts were gone to ensure pupils were safe and in frequent contact. In touch days were well attended and training on remote learning improved pupil engagement with school remotely</p>	<p>The use of this fund was limited due to the time pupils spent out of school and the lack of extra-curricular opportunities. The funding of laptops meant that no spend was needed to provide technology although disadvantaged pupils were prioritised for access to remote learning.</p>
<p>TOTAL PP BID 2019/20 £414,544</p>			