

## Pupil Premium Principles

### Introduction

Evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds generally face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as their peers. Each academy in the Trust therefore receives extra funding from the government (pupil premium funding). In line with DfE guidance, the main purpose for allocation in the Trust is to:

- improve the academic outcomes of all disadvantaged pupils;
- close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

It is also used to support non-academic provision and readiness for life including:

- improving pupils' mental health
- improving attendance.

### Pupil Premium Funding

Each academy receives pupil premium funding based on the number of pupils they have in January each year from the following groups:

- £1345 per pupil who claim free school meals, or who has claimed free school meals in the last 6 years;
- £2345 per pupil for previously looked after children i.e. children who have left authority care through adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.

Each academy also receives the following pupil premium (pupil premium plus) via local authorities:

- £2345 per pupil for children who are looked after by local authorities.

Our academies work with local authorities to decide how this funding is used to support each child's Personal Education Plan.

### Using Pupil Premium effectively

*'Closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers is the greatest challenge facing English schools. The gap is stubborn because its causes are entrenched and complex, and most lie beyond the control of schools and educators. However, it is clear that schools can make a difference.'*

*In England, the gap has closed in both primary and secondary schools since the introduction of the Pupil Premium, and in every part of the country schools have demonstrated how great teaching and careful planning can make a huge impact on the outcomes of disadvantaged children.'*

Our individual academy leaders decide how to use the pupil premium to improve disadvantaged pupils' academic attainment in each academy. They assess the needs of all disadvantaged pupils with the aim that funding is used for maximum impact. It is recognised in our Trust that pupils' needs differ and hence, will cost differing amounts to address. In line with government guidance, **there is no expectation in the Trust that our academies should spend the grant only on eligible pupils, or on a per eligible pupil basis** e.g. £1,345 is allocated for each eligible primary age pupil counted in the January school census. This does not mean that £1,345 extra will be spent on every pupil. Our academies are able to spend pupil premium funding on non-eligible pupils who need extra support e.g. those pupils who are or who have been in contact with a social worker.

The Trust fully embraces research evidence regarding effective spending of pupil premium funding. Therefore, the Trust expects that **a proportion of funding will be spent in each academy on whole school strategies, particularly improving the quality of teaching, which has the potential to impact positively on all pupils.**

### 3 Tiered Approach:

Each of our academies adopts a tiered approach to spending the pupil premium funding:

- **Tier 1: Teaching:** Training and continuous development to improve the quality of all teaching (not only that of teachers new to the profession) to improve the impact of teaching and learning for pupils;
- **Tier 2: Targeted academic support:** 1:1 or small group evidence-based interventions for disadvantaged pupils linked to whole class teaching;
- **Tier 3: Wider Strategies:** Whole-school strategies to address non-academic factors e.g. improving attendance, behaviour and readiness to learn (social and emotional support). (Non-academic use can also include e.g. funding for school breakfast clubs; music lessons for disadvantaged pupils; help with the cost of educational trips; speech and language therapy.)

We encourage our academies to use the EEF's Pupil Premium guide that explains which strategies have been found to be effective: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/pupil-premium-guide/>

All academies in the Trust presently identify improving the attainment of disadvantaged pupils as a 'golden thread' which runs through all key improvement priorities relating to the quality of education.

### **Online Statements**

All academies in the Trust publish a Pupil Premium Statement on their websites. The Trust has chosen to continue with an annual strategy approach at present.

The main purpose of the statements is for parents to understand how the funding is being used. The online statements explain:

- how much funding the academy has been allocated this year
- how the academy intends to spend the funding

- the rationale for the academy's spending decisions, including the barriers it is looking to overcome
- the intended impact
- what effect last year's pupil premium spending had within the academy.

### **Accountability**

Our academies must show how they are using their pupil premium effectively:

- by publishing the statement above
- through inspections by Ofsted
- through published performance tables
- through visits by the Trust's Academy Improvement Officers.

### **Additional information: Service Pupil Premium (SPP)**

Our academies also receive Service Pupil Premium (£310) for every pupil with a parent who:

- is serving in HM Forces
- has been registered as a 'service child' on the January school census at any point since 2015 (Ever 6 service child measure)
- has retired on a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

This funding is used to help with pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

Our individual academy leaders have flexibility over how they use the SPP, as they are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of those pupils for whom the funding has been allocated. Examples for spend include:

- providing a variety of means of support including counselling provision, nurture groups etc.
- improving the level of and means of communication between the child and their deployed parents e.g. 'Skype time' clubs, developing scrapbooks highlighting achievements
- funding staff hours to support the needs of service children when they join the academy as a result of a posting or when a parent is deployed.

SPP is not used to subsidise routine school activity e.g. trips, music lessons.

Our academies do not combine Service Pupil Premium with the main Pupil Premium funding. This funding is not included in the Pupil Premium Statements published on individual academy websites.