

# Pupil premium strategy statement 2024-26

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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

## School overview

Detail	Data
School name	St. Katherine's School
Number of pupils in school	1001
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	22%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>A 3 year strategy is recommended</b> )	2024-2026
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	December 2025
Statement authorised by	Matthew Maw Deputy Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Kat Crocker Assistant Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Glen Davies Link governor

## Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£248, 551
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b> If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£248,551

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

Our aim is to use pupil premium funding to help improve and sustain higher attainment for disadvantaged pupils at our school that is comparable with that of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.

During the period of this strategy plan, we will focus on the key challenges that are preventing our disadvantaged pupils from attaining well: below age expectation reading and vocabulary skills when compared to non-disadvantaged pupils, low attendance and high persistent absence. Our approach will be responsive to both the common challenges and our pupil's individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, such as baseline tests, NGRT and subject assessment data.

High-quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged pupils require the most support, such as assessing prerequisite knowledge, targeted questioning and modelling. 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.

We are proud to be a fully inclusive comprehensive school and feel passionately that all of our students must leave us as highly literate young people and so prioritise reading in all that we do.

To ensure that all students are nurtured we will:

- ensure promoting excellent attendance is everyone's primary focus
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take a collective responsibility for disadvantaged students' outcomes
- secure quality first teaching through consistency of the St Katherine's Teaching and Learning Principles across the school and supported by high quality CPL
- ensure that classroom teaching is responsive
- ensure that early intervention takes place at the point need is identified
- provide mental health and wellbeing support where it is needed
- place a high importance on belonging and ensure that disadvantaged students are supported to have equal access to our co-curricular activities including music lessons, sporting activities, educational trips and visits, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme etc.

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>There is an attendance gap between non-disadvantaged and disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>During the previous academic year, our overall attendance figure was 90.7%. However, students in receipt of the PP grant attended school 86.9% and those that were FSM attended 86.7% (figures for Term 1 - 5)</p>
2	<p>There is a <b>progress and attainment gap</b> between non-disadvantaged and disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Our previous examination data revealed there is a gap between the national non-disadvantaged progress 8 score when compared to the St. Katherine's disadvantaged progress 8 score. Average attainment 8 grade was 4.06 for disadvantaged pupils compared with 4.98 for non-disadvantaged at St. Katherine's school.</p> <p>Assessments on entry to year 7 in 2023 indicate that 26% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations with a KS2 average of 101.6 compared to 14% of their peers with a KS2 average of 105.8.</p>
3	<p><b>Literacy skills on entry are lower</b> for disadvantaged pupils when compared to non-disadvantaged</p> <p>NGRT results for students in current years 7 to 9 show that 30% of PP students are in Stanine 1-3 whilst this figure is 37% for Non-PP. This is in line with the gap seen for KS2 outcomes suggesting a strong link between low prior attainment and below average literacy.</p>
4	<p><b>RTL warnings and referrals</b> for a small number of DA pupils (3-5) in each year group is high. Time out of lessons for these pupils is likely to be having a detrimental effect on their academic progress.</p> <p>Students who are PP or FSM and have SEND are more likely to have lost learning due to RTL referrals.</p>
5	<p>For the year 2023/24, our <b>suspension rate</b> for children on FSM was 67.1%. This compared to a national average rate of 19.96% and a local authority rate of 31.19%. Whilst below the local authority average our suspension rate remains above national average. There remains work to do to narrow the gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged children.</p>

6	<p>We know from attendance at parents' evenings and events that there is <b>less parental engagement</b> of pupils who are eligible for disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Our data on the lack of engagement with online lessons from a number of disadvantaged pupils in each year group shows us that due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, disadvantaged pupils are at particular risk of falling behind their peers as they are more likely to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● two periods of lockdown, loss of face-face learning in school. This has resulted in specific content being missed, leading to gaps in learning and stalled sequencing of journey</li> <li>● difficulties with homework and extended learning due to more complex home circumstances and lack of IT access and resources</li> <li>● limited access during closure to specialist staff and interventions for pupils with additional needs</li> <li>● additional well being needs arising from pressures and arrangements in place due to pandemic.</li> </ul>
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## 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
<p><b>Attendance</b> of disadvantaged pupils should rise to be in line with non-disadvantaged students.</p>	<p>Attendance stages for disadvantaged pupils are implemented consistently.</p> <p>Monitoring shows attendance meetings and calls are taking place at appropriate trigger points.</p> <p>Fewer disadvantaged pupils represented in exclusion and repeat exclusion statistics compared to National ALL pupils..</p> <p>Reduction in absenteeism and persistent absenteeism amongst disadvantaged pupils.</p>
<p>Improved <b>attainment and progress</b> across the curriculum at the end of KS4.</p>	<p>The gap between the P8 and average attainment score of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils is reduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the progress 8 score is 0</li> <li>● an average Attainment 8 score of 5</li> </ul> <p>This will be monitored at the three progress checks throughout the year.</p>
<p>Improved <b>reading</b> comprehension among disadvantaged pupils across KS3.</p>	<p>NGRT, Accelerated reader and Lexia (for some students with SEND) demonstrate improved comprehension skills among disadvantaged pupils and a smaller disparity between the scores of disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>Reading logs show whether or not students are reading regularly, and help us to support students to read at an appropriate level for their reading ability.</p>

	Our coaching programme and lesson ‘drop ins’ reveal classroom teachers use knowledge of NGRT data to inform questioning, scaffolding and stretch support across the school.
<p>Improve <b>levels of literacy</b> through developing <b>vocabulary</b> so that disadvantaged pupils are more able to access the curriculum and wider learning.</p> <p>Students have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired vocabulary through deliberate sentence construction opportunities across the curriculum.</p>	<p>NGRT tests demonstrate improved comprehension skills among disadvantaged pupils and a smaller disparity between the scores of disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>Our coaching programme and lesson ‘drop ins’ reveal classroom teachers use the whole school strategies for introducing vocabulary and there are no missed opportunities for the teaching of vocabulary.</p> <p>Book looks demonstrate that pupils’ vocabulary is developing over time.</p>
<p>Decrease the percentage of disadvantaged students who receive <b>Ready to Learn referrals</b>, exclusions and repeat exclusion statistics compared to national.</p>	<p>The over-representation of disadvantaged student referrals to Ready to Learn declines termly for the small number of pupils identified in each year group.</p> <p>A reduction in suspensions to shift towards the national average for non-disadvantaged student suspensions.</p>

## 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: £120,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
A coaching programme for staff focused on the highest leverage needed for teacher development. Designed to ensure all students have access to high quality teaching and learning across the curriculum.	Supporting high quality teaching is pivotal in improving children’s outcomes Effective professional development – EEF	2,3
Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments.	Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional	2,3

<p>Training will be provided for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted correctly.</p> <p>Training for tutors about how to use data to inform DEAR delivered by Lead on Reading..</p>	<p>support through interventions or teacher instruction</p>	
<p>Embedding checking for understanding techniques developed last year, ensuring staff are able to rapidly identify gaps in prerequisite knowledge. This will involve ongoing teacher training and support in CPL Wednesdays.</p>	<p>The identification of key concepts and the building blocks (thresholds) towards them is crucial in ensuring disadvantaged students can move effectively through the curriculum. The EEF Toolkit identifies that the <a href="#">impact of mastery learning</a> approaches is an additional five months' progress, on average, over the course of a year.</p>	
<p>Developing metacognitive skills in all pupils through the whole school introduction of 'My turn, our turn, your turn' to model key concepts and skills across the school allowing a high success rate in independent practice. This will involve ongoing teacher training and support in CPL Wednesdays.</p>	<p>Teaching metacognitive strategies to pupils can be an inexpensive method to help pupils become more independent learners as suggested in the <a href="#">EEF Toolkit</a>. On average, these approaches have an impact of 7 months' additional progress. This is also in line with the recommendations in the <a href="#">EEF Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning guidance report</a>. Internal QA and the trust review have identified that pupils do not always have a high quality model to work towards where they have heard their teacher's thinking.</p>	
<p>Embed the whole school strategy towards reading, vocabulary and writing in line with recommendations in the <a href="#">EEF Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools</a> guidance.</p> <p>We will fund professional development and instructional coaching focused on the highest leverage needed for teacher development in this area.</p>	<p>Reading is crucial to ensuring pupils develop a wide ranging vocabulary and access more complex learning opportunities. Within this includes specific tasks that target and develop reading comprehension. The <a href="#">EEF toolkit</a> highlights this specific strand of reading intervention to add 6 months of impact for pupils.</p> <p>34% of year 7 pupils that fall into stanines 1-3 are DA pupils. 26% of year 8 pupils that fall into stanines 1-3 are DA pupils.</p> <p>Reading comprehension, vocabulary and other literacy skills are heavily</p>	

	linked with attainment in maths and English: <a href="#">Why Closing the Word Gap Matters?</a>	
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## Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £91,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p><b>KS3 Academic intervention:</b> Provision of intensive literacy and numeracy support for identified DA pupils in KS3 that arrived below the expected standard</p> <p>Mastery English and maths groups. A 6 week programme of intervention during tutor time, 3 times a week. The Dyslexia Action Literacy Programme.</p>	<p>Reading comprehension strategies can have a positive impact on pupils' ability to understand a text, and this is particularly the case when interventions are delivered over a shorter timespan as identified by the <a href="#">EEF Toolkit</a>. This can deliver approximately 6 months on average.</p> <p>The EEF Toolkit evidence indicates that one to one tuition can be effective, delivering approximately five additional months progress on average.</p>	1, 2
<p>KS4 Academic intervention: Small group work during enrichment. Pupils projected for 9-4, 9-5 and 9-7 English and maths basics will be prioritised for basics crossover interventions where needed.</p>	<p>Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind as identified in the <a href="#">EEF Toolkit</a> and as approximately six additional months progress on average.</p>	1, 2

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

Budgeted cost: £37,551

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>The Attendance Officer will use graduated response to monitor the attendance stages to ensure a positive effect on disadvantaged students whose attendance is of concern</p> <p>Use of Attendance Officer to support pupils that become persistently absent with regular reports provided to relevant staff following each parent meeting/visit.</p>	<p>School attendance rates have a direct impact on progress, whilst research such as the institute of education (2011) and EEF suggests successful implementation of attendance policy and use of key staff is vital to success and a designated member of the leadership team to oversee implementation of the policy will maximise the impact of attendance interventions used.</p> <p>The <a href="#">DfE guidance</a> has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced persistent absence levels.</p>	1,2,6
<p>Face to face academic progress parental meetings following progress checks to be implemented by Heads of House with parents/carers in attendance. Targets to be agreed and monitored.</p> <p>The parents and carers of disadvantaged students are prioritised when booking online appointments.</p>	<p>The <a href="#">EEf Toolkit</a> found parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress and that schools need to tailor school communications to encourage positive dialogue about learning</p>	1,2,4,5,6
<p>An adoption of Trauma Informed practices with the</p>	<p>The <a href="#">EEF Toolkit</a> found SEMH interventions have an identifiable and valuable impact on attitudes to learning and social relationships in</p>	1,2,4,5,6



<p>support of Trauma Informed Schools UK. Continued provision of social emotional mental health (SEMH) support with the appointment of a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator who will oversee aspects of EBSA support as well as coordinating support from external agencies such as Off the Record and the School Nurse.</p>	<p>school with an average overall impact of four months' additional progress on attainment.</p>	
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**Total budgeted cost: £ 248,551**

## 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 2023 to 2024 academic year.

*A8 = 4.7 (all ) P8 = -0.06 (all)*

*A8 = 4.1 (PPG) P8 = -0.36 (PPG)*

*A8 = 5.0 (non PPG) P8 = 0.09 (non PPG)*

#### **Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)**

Progress for our disadvantaged learners has improved in 2024 but is below the 2019 best progress figure.

Attainment has broadly returned to pre-pandemic levels of attainment at 4.7 and 4.1 for the disadvantaged group.

Our disadvantaged group achieved 72% 9-4 English and maths in 2024, the highest level ever for the school with just a 3% gap with this attainment measure.

We know that we still have a varied picture of progress for disadvantaged students across the curriculum. Following the 2022 GCSE exam series, students within ??, ??,?? have made better progress than the national average. However, we know that further development work is particularly required at KS4 in computing French, music, philosophy and beliefs and psychology. As a result, faculties will be continuing their work on modelling and in the development of literacy within their subject. In particular, we will be focusing on the progress of high prior attaining disadvantaged students. A coaching programme supported by StepLab modules is well established for staff coaching feedback is focused on the highest leverage needed for teacher development. This model of incremental coaching is designed to ensure all students have access to high quality teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Subject progress tests in science, English and maths have been used to identify students for academic intervention (3x week). This intervention was first trialled in 2022 and has been developed with subsequent cohorts. Disadvantaged students are over represented in these intervention groups and the impact of the intervention has shown to be the most significant single intervention used with students at KS4. The next steps are to continue with this model of intervention and target disadvantaged students to be part of the groups.

Our whole school CPL includes dedicated time for reading, literacy and oracy. Departmental curriculum time has been given to developing schemes of learning to include explicit teaching of oracy, opportunities for extended reading and sentence level activities.

We continue to purchase standardised diagnostic assessments that provide baseline information about students. Additional training has been provided for staff appropriate to their role to ensure assessments are interpreted correctly.

Training for tutors about how to use data to inform DEAR delivered by Lead on Reading.

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

There is additional leadership of literacy across the school to promote disciplinary literacy and reading strategies. This includes a LSA delivering phonics intervention for Year 7 and 8. The impact of this intervention is measured by the reduction in phonics gaps for students completing the programme. 18 students completed the phonics programme last academic year.

The reading fluency programme has expanded to include approximately 40 students who have identified comprehension and reading fluency needs. Additional staff have received training to allow more colleagues to deliver the intervention under the leadership of Lead for Reading. Next steps are to expand the provision to include more disadvantaged students and include more students who have additional barriers to reading so that we are able to tackle more entrenched problems as the resilience of the programme grows.

Year 11 Intervention groups for English, maths and science continue with three weekly taught sessions for identified students. These interventions are led by subject specialists and are taught in small groups focussing on individual student gaps and misconceptions as well as exam analysis for individual departments.

Year 11 students continue to have additional academic intervention during Enrichment lessons. Greater targeting and selection of which students are included in each subject area was a feature of last academic year. On average, disadvantaged students made slightly positive progress between their PC1 predictions and their summer result in their identified academic intervention class.

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

There has been some restructuring of the Inclusion Team to include lead teachers and lead LSAs for the areas of Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Cognition and Learning and Communication and Interaction. This has allowed greater specialism and subject knowledge to be applied to support individuals relating to their area of need.

In line with other schools nationally, we did not see attendance increase last year to pre-pandemic levels. The attendance of disadvantaged students was a concern and is a focus for this year. In line with new statutory guidance, improving the attendance of disadvantaged students is the primary priority of the 2024-25 strategy.

In response to this new guidance relating to attendance codes, there has been a whole school drive to improve punctuality to both the start of the school day and individual lessons. Disadvantaged students are overrepresented in the data for minutes of learning lost to lateness and are being supported to reduce the amount of time they are out of lessons. This is not data we have scrutinised to this degree in the past and has allowed us to set individual targets for students as well as cohorts of students. Next steps are to reduce the gap in punctuality between disadvantaged students and their peers.

Disadvantaged students continue to be the focus in weekly meetings with our attendance officer. Absence and persistent absence continues to be a concern. There are new trust wide collaborations and analysis of data for the 2024-25 academic year that will support individual schools within the trust to share best practices.

## 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*

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Provider</b>
NGRT	GL Assessment
NGST	GL Assessment
Accelerated Reader	Renaissance
Lexia	Lexia Learning
Read Write Inc Fresh Start	