

# Pupil premium strategy statement 2024-25

## Castlecroft Primary School



This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery 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	Castlecroft Primary School
Number of pupils in school	218
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	66 Pupils = 30.3%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement each academic year</b> )	2022-2025
Date this statement was published	31st December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	December 2025
Statement authorised by	Andrew Dyll
Pupil premium lead	Andrew Dyll
Governor / Trustee lead	Ashley Haffie-Hobday (Chair of Governors)

### Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£96,200
LAC funding	£1300
EYPP funding	£2000
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	£99,500

## Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

### Statement of intent

At Castlecroft Primary School we have high aspirations and ambitions for our children. We believe that no child should be left behind and are determined to ensure that all our children are given every chance to realise their full potential. It is our intention that **all** pupils regardless of their background achieve well, make good progress and leave Castlecroft ready for the next stage in their educational journey.

The actions identified in this statement are designed to support all those children who are at a disadvantage. These may be children who are or have been in receipt of free school meals, children who are or have been in the care system or children who are facing other challenges such as needing the support of a social worker.

Ensuring that children receive quality first teaching is essential to our approach. Teacher assessment information is used to identify areas that need increased focus or to prioritise learning. Whilst there is evidence to show that this approach is one of the most effective ways of reducing the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils, it will also lead to **all** children making progress and achieving well.

As well as using pupil premium funding to develop and maintain high quality teaching, funding will also be spent on targeted academic support. Again, assessment systems in school will identify which pupils need to be targeted and in what areas. Funding will also be used to allow **all** children access to the full curriculum offer, therefore allowing them to experience success, develop confidence and be ready for, and excited about, future learning experiences.

This strategy also identifies the planned support for education recovery following post covid lock down. Targeted support through the National tutoring programme and in house programmes will be used for pupils whose education has been most affected including non-disadvantaged pupils.

The challenges faced by disadvantaged children are not only identified through diagnostic assessment and data analysis, but through whole staff discussions around the barriers to learning. These may be common challenges or individual needs.

To ensure our response is effective, Castlecroft adopts a whole school approach where staff hold the highest expectations for all pupils, are aware of the children's starting points and provide appropriate challenge in the work set. They monitor pupil welfare and progress closely and intervene quickly when required.

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Assessments, observations and discussions with staff and pupils identify that Language skills and vocabulary gaps on entry to school are often lower for pupils eligible for PP than for other pupils.
2	Observations and discussions identify that Pupil Premium children particularly those who are Ever Looked After Children often have emotional and behavioural needs that block learning. This has significantly increased post Covid Lockdown and is not restricted to disadvantaged pupils. Currently we have 2 counsellors that attend school to provide support to pupils. There are 13 disadvantaged pupils (20% and an increase of 1 pupil from last year) that school is aware of with emotional needs who have received support from the counsellors in school, Reflexions, Outreach services, or are supported and monitored by staff for emotion coaching or receive support externally.
3	Observations and records indicate that many pupils eligible for pupil premium also have other factors such as SEN to consider when planning successful interventions. Currently 23 disadvantaged pupils (35% and an increase of 3 pupils) are on the SEN register with 7 pupils of these on EHCP's (11% and an increase of 4 pupils) and 2 of these awaiting the results of an ECHNA (3%).
4	Observations and discussions identify that children eligible for Pupil Premium funding do not always arrive in school with the same rich life experiences as other pupils and so knowledge and language acquisition are limited.
5	Our attendance data identifies that attendance of Pupil Premium children is below that of other pupils in school by 3.4% Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is having a negative impact for some disadvantaged pupils
6	Our observations indicate that the education of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been negatively affected by school closure to a greater degree than other pupils. These findings are supported by national studies. This has resulted in knowledge gaps developing and pupils falling further behind age related expectations in reading writing and maths.

## 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
Maintain recent Improvements in speaking, reading and writing skills for PP pupils in foundation stage.	Pupils eligible for PP in Foundation Stage make good progress from their low starting points to meet the Communication and Language and Speaking elements of the EYFS expectations by the end of Reception. For those children with speech and language difficulties, early

	intervention is provided. Those with EAL receive vocabulary acquisition support.
To improve maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils by the end of KS2	By 2024/25 Pupils eligible for PP make good progress in maths. By the end of KS2 pupil premium progress scores are positive in maths providing evidence that the group has narrowed the gap on all pupils nationally. Attainment is in line with the National average for all pupils
To improve reading attainment for disadvantaged pupils by the end of KS2	By 2024/25 Pupils eligible for PP make good progress in reading. By the end of KS2 pupil premium progress scores are positive in reading providing evidence that the group has narrowed the gap on all pupils nationally. Attainment is in line with the National average for all pupils
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in school particularly disadvantaged pupils	By 2024/25 there is evidence of sustained high levels of pupil behaviour and well being Children have access to a variety of enrichment opportunities which promotes all areas of learning. Pupils are enthusiastic about school. Qualitative data from observations, discussions and surveys are used as a measure. Incidents of bullying remain Low Identified pupils' behaviour improves.
To achieve and sustain a high level of attendance for all pupils including those disadvantaged	By 2024/25 there is sustained high attendance Attendance rates for pupils eligible for PP are in line with other pupils nationally Overall PP absence improves to 5% or less and is in line with other pupils. Persistent absence percentages are in line with other pupils. Parents are challenged and supported to improve children's attendance.

## 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: £ 23,480

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Purchase high quality training for staff to strengthen the teaching of early reading</p> <p>Training for staff to ensure RWI scheme is delivered effectively in KS1</p>	<p>Consistent Phonics approach has been successful in raising reading standards in school and is recognised to have positive impact on accuracy of word reading</p>	<p>1,6</p>
<p>Further strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in phonics in KS1 through maintaining an increased number of practitioners.</p>	<p>A small number of children leave year 1 behind their peers nationally. An internal school review of phonics identified that a reduction in RWI leaders following a staffing restructure in 2018-19 had a significant negative impact. Group sizes were increased as it was difficult to meet the needs of all pupils.</p>	<p>1,6</p>
<p>Strengthen Maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DFE and NCETM guidance.</p> <p>Maths leader and one other teacher to receive training from the Maths SHaW Hub to develop the teaching of maths</p> <p>Continued support from an external advisor used to provide whole staff training. Teachers released to attend Maths Hub training and embed good practice.</p>	<p>DFE non statutory guidance in Maths and EEF guidance on Maths teaching strategies</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>Further develop the teaching and learning opportunities in the Early years that help children develop language acquisition.</p> <p>EYs to continue to be supported by external advisor. Training to be provided on identified areas for development.</p>	<p>There is strong evidence that suggests that high quality discussions and teacher interactions can lead to accelerated speech and language development</p> <p>Oral Languages Interventions</p> <p>EEF</p>	<p>1, 6</p>

Purchase of new pupil reading resources that perfectly match the DFE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme already established within school.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base that indicates a positive impact on the accuracy of word reading (though not necessarily comprehension), particularly for disadvantaged pupils. Phonics Toolkit Strand EEF	
Continue whole school Reading for pleasure drive - Moving into a sixth year of development.		1,4,6
Whole staff training from SEND specialist teacher on a number of recognised and recommended programmes for developing language acquisition as well as oral and written sentence construction skills.	Recommended programmes from SEND specialists to be used to support pupils with developing language and such as colourful semantics, alphabet arc, precision teaching.	1, 3, 6

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

Budgeted cost: £53,500

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<b>Reading catch up KS2</b> FFT lightning squad tutoring for pupils whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. A significant proportion of the pupils who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one and in small groups - EEF	3,4,6
<b>Early language acquisition Catch up EYFS</b> Wellcomm Initiative used to assess and support accelerated language acquisition to identified pupils in EYFS	Oral language interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' language skills. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: EEF	1,3,4,6
<b>Phonics Interventions EYFS and KS1</b> Phonics interventions for those children identified as not on track to achieve the expected standard.	Research including, EEF Toolkit, identifies that high quality focused 1:1 teaching has a very good impact on achievement.	1,3,4,6,

Little and often method of in house intervention implemented		
<b>Maths Catch Up KS1 and SEN pupils KS2</b> Small group interventions for identified children not on track to be at the expected standard in KS1	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one and in small groups - EEF	3,4,6
<b>Maths Catch up KS2</b> Interventions led by experienced teachers provided for pupils weekly. Assessment data used to identify children including more able children who need additional support to catch up.	Research including, EEF Toolkit, identifies that teacher directed intervention has a significant impact on pupil attainment.	3,6
<b>Targeted SEN support</b> Targeted speech and language support by a contracted speech and language therapist to develop oral language and listening skills.	The EEF Toolkit suggests that oral language interventions have a moderate impact but it is our view that without the bedrock of linguistic skills, that some of our children do not start school with, that their formative years in education would be further disadvantaged.	3,6
<b>Targeted SEN support</b> SEN TA to provide additional focused support for identified pupils and support the work of the inclusion manager	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one and in small groups - EEF	2,3,6

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

Budgeted cost: £ 24,360

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Purchase service level agreement for support of an Education Welfare Officer to support vulnerable families in getting their children to school on time every day.	Arriving promptly for school every day has a direct relationship with academic progress.	5
The school to continue to use Pupil Premium Funding to support children's access to a broad and rich curriculum Funding provided for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group music lessons</li> <li>• Trips and Residential visits</li> </ul>		2,4,5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To attend fee paying afterschool clubs like cookery, art, football, EKO club etc</li> </ul>		
Provide support for disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils to attend breakfast club	<p>This provides a location for social and emotional learning as well as a balanced nutritional breakfast.</p> <p>This good start to the day has also had a good impact on attendance and punctuality and therefore in all aspects affects the children's readiness to learn</p>	2,4,5
Provide enhanced access to after-school sports provision for targeted pupils by increasing the number of opportunities available	<p>The impact of sports participation on academic success is thought to be low by EEF. We disagree. We are sure that the role of sport in developing good learning behaviours, resilience, teamwork, increased attention, good mental well being and positive self image have a huge impact on core academic skills and therefore we are keen to give as much opportunity to our children as possible.</p>	2,4,5
Whole staff training from the SEND specialist teacher on supporting children with behavioural/emotional needs to maintain control and re-engage sooner with teaching and learning .	<p>Recommended programmes from the SEND specialists to be used by all staff. Zones of regulation and Team teach strategies</p>	2,3
Early identification and access to the services of school counsellor	<p>In school evidence identifies that Children working with counsellor have seen improvements in learning behaviours including increased self control, self confidence and enthusiasm</p>	2,5

**Total budgeted cost: £ 101,950**



## 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.

We have analysed the performance of our school's disadvantaged pupils during the 2023/24 academic year using key stage 1 and 2 performance data, phonics check results, our own internal assessments and teachers own formative assessments. Qualitative data is also used to review the impact of the pupil premium activity.

To help us gauge the performance of our disadvantaged pupils we compared our results to those for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils at a national and/or regional level. We also looked at these comparisons using pre-pandemic scores for 2019, in order to assess how the performance of our disadvantaged pupils has changed during this period.

#### **EYFS**

Assessment outcomes identified that 3 out of 7 (43%) disadvantaged pupils achieved a Good Level of Development. This was in line with the rest of the class 43%. However 4 of the 7 disadvantaged pupils have been identified on the SEND register. In the areas of Communication and Language, 4 out of 7 (57%) pupils achieved the expected standard and in Reading 5 out of 7 (73%) achieved the expected standard. This is inline with the outcomes from the previous year.

The outcomes and observations suggest that WellComm introduced in Nursery and increased high quality adult interactions during pupil play across early years are effective.

#### **Phonics**

There is evidence that the teaching of early reading is strong and internal assessments show that the methods for helping children to catch up are effective.

In 2024 at the end of Y1 9 out of 11 disadvantaged pupils (82%) achieved the expected standard in phonics. This is above the national average. Both the children who did not achieve the expected standard are on the SEND register. One is Visually Impaired and EAL and the other has Speech and Language needs 29.

At the end of KS1 6 out of 7 disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard phonics. The one pupil who didn't is in receipt of an EHCP.

#### **Reading**

Internal assessment and statutory assessments, provide evidence that the quality of teaching and support systems in place to help children to catch up are effective. At the end of KS1, 6 out of 7 disadvantaged pupils achieved the expected standard in reading.

At the end of KS2 6 out of 12 pupils (50%) achieved the expected standard. This is below the National and LA average Disadvantaged pupil outcomes, remain behind those of other pupils (63%). However 3 out of the 6 children were disapplied due to the severity of their learning needs. Improving reading outcomes at the end of KS2 is a priority target in the School Improvement Plan as the last 2 years attainment for all pupils in reading has fallen.

### **Maths outcomes**

Statutory teacher assessment of Maths at the end of EYFS identified 3 out of 7 children (43%) were teacher assessed as being at the expected standard.

Maths outcomes at the end of KS1 for disadvantaged pupils were below the national average with 3 out of 7 achieving the expected standard.

At the end of KS2 8 out of 12 disadvantaged pupils (67%) achieved the expected standard.

This is ahead of the national average for Disadvantaged pupils. Of those that didn't achieve the expected standard 3 of the 4 were disapplied due to the severity of their SEND.

This provides evidence of effective school improvement activity.

### **Attendance**

Attendance during the last academic year for **all pupils** Rec to Y6 was 93.6% and was slightly below the previous year in 2021/22 of 94.2%.

Disadvantaged pupils' attendance was slightly below **all other pupils** at 91.3% and was a slight fall from the previous year of 92.1% (-0.8%).

Due to pupil premium attendance being below the target of 96% it remains a focus in our current plan.

Assessments and observations indicate that pupils' wellbeing and mental health is in line with the City of Wolverhampton average for pupils at the end of KS2. Outcomes of the Health Related Behaviour Survey (2024) showed that 48% were happy with life at the moment. However there are still a number of pupils who are struggling emotionally (26% of KS2 pupils had a medium or low combined score on the Stirling Wellbeing scale) and this is the case for disadvantaged children also. Pupil premium funding was used to quickly respond to the needs of pupils through targeted wellbeing support. Pupil discussions and observations identify the positive impact these sessions have had. This needs to continue.

Pupil discussions and observations identify the positive impact that funded opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to attend educational trips and visits, access music lessons etc have had.

These results mean that at present we are not on course to achieve all the outcomes that we set out to achieve by 2024/25, as stated in the Intended Outcomes section above.

Furthermore, we are unable to calculate pupil progress figures for Reading writing and maths at the end of KS2 due to lack of KS1 statutory assessment data as a result of school closures during the Covid pandemic. This will be the case at the end of the academic year 2024/25.

We have reviewed our strategy plan and made changes to how we intend to use some of our budget this academic year, as set out in the Activity in This Academic Year section above. The Further Information section below provides more details about our planning, implementation, and evaluation processes.

## 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

## Further information (optional)

*Use this space to provide any further information about your pupil premium strategy. For example, about your strategy planning, or other activity that you are implementing to support disadvantaged pupils, that is not dependent on pupil premium or recovery premium funding.*

### **Additional activity**

Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:

- offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration. Activities will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising. Disadvantaged pupils will be encouraged and supported to participate.

### **Planning, implementation, and evaluation**

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we evaluated the activity undertaken in previous years to assess the degree of impact. Where the impact was below what we expected, consideration has been given as to how this can be improved.

As part of termly data meetings, we have also discussed the progress of disadvantaged children and the impact initiatives are having at an individual level in this way support can be personalised and hopefully become more effective.

We have put a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils.