

EPS: Pupil premium strategy statement

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 effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Ecclesbourne Primary School
Number of pupils in school	417
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	35%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2021/22 to 2025/26
Date this statement was published	December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Jo Waters Head of School
Pupil premium lead	Sarah Caesar
Governor / Trustee lead	Adrienne Cluer (lead for SEND and PPG pupils)

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£218,160
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
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	£218,160

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

It is our intention that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve highly across all subject areas. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve this intention, including progress for those who are more-able.

We will consider the challenges faced by all our vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers and ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of our pupils, recognising that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.

Quality first teaching is at the heart of our approach. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time benefit all pupils in our school. Implicit in our intended outcomes, is the intention that non-disadvantaged pupils' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our strategy is also integral to wider school plans for education recovery, notably in its targeted support for pupils whose education has been worst affected, including non-disadvantaged pupils.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure pupils who are eligible for PPG make good progress in comparison to other pupils of similar ability at the end of the key stage
- monitor and target PPG children across the school to ensure that the performance of PPG children in all cohorts is in line with non-disadvantaged peers and, where it is not, put support in place to diminish the difference;
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- ensure that barriers to learning for PPG pupils do not have a negative impact on their academic progress;
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Internal and external data indicates that literacy attainment and progress among disadvantaged pupils is, in some cases, below that of non-disadvantaged pupils and that disadvantaged pupils have greater difficulty acquiring early reading skills and secure writing skills.
2	Internal and external data indicates that disadvantaged higher level maths reasoning skills are below those of non-disadvantaged pupils.
3	Disadvantaged pupils have less reliable or no access to online learning opportunities.
4	Assessments, observations and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils, particularly EAL pupils.
5	Speech and language is identified as the most prevalent additional need in the school with PPG pupils making up a large percentage of SEND pupils with this need.
6	Discussions with staff, pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, particularly affecting disadvantaged pupils. Teacher referrals for support have markedly increased post-pandemic, including the request for activities which enrich the curriculum for disadvantaged pupils.
7	Percentage of disadvantaged pupils being identified as 'persistently absent' higher than for non-disadvantaged pupils where absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.
8	Our assessments and observations indicate that the education and well-being of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been impacted by partial school closures to a greater extent than for other pupils. This has resulted in knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations, especially 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
Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes by 2026/27 show that the percentage of disadvantaged pupils meeting the expected standard is at least in line with national and that the progress of disadvantaged pupils is at least in line with national.
Improved outcomes in maths reasoning among disadvantaged pupils	KS2 maths outcomes by 2026/27 show that the percentage of disadvantaged pupils meeting the expected standard is at least in line with national.
Improved outcomes in writing among disadvantaged pupils	KS2 writing outcomes by 2026/27 show that the percentage of disadvantaged pupils meeting the expected standard is at least in line with national.
Improve access to online learning for PPG and other vulnerable pupils	Pupils with no previous access demonstrate involvement in online learning.
Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils by developing a language rich curriculum.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils, supported by other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
Improve access to quality SALT therapy for pupils with speech related additional needs.	Work with outside provider (Love to Communicate) ensures access to quality SALT therapy and allows SEND pupils with SALT needs to reach speech development targets.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high levels of wellbeing by 2026/27 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from student voice, parent feedback and teacher observations • participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils • Improved behaviour and attainment for pupils with identified SEMH barriers to learning
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high attendance by 2026/27 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall absence rate for all pupils being at or below national levels, and the attendance of disadvantaged pupils being in line with non-disadvantaged pupils

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below national and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being in line with non-disadvantaged pupils.
<p>To diminish gaps in pupil attainment, particularly between disadvantaged and all pupils, which have grown as a result of the partial closure of schools.</p>	<p>Pupils make rapid progress and close gaps. Knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations are addressed and reversed, especially in writing and maths.</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: £10,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Further develop 'Little Wandle' DfE approved SSP to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils including Rapid Catch Up and Fluency Programme. Training for staff to ensure phonics intervention is correctly taught	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.	1
Improve the quality of teaching of writing through targeted coaching and CPD.	EEF identifies that access to high-quality professional development for teachers lies at the heart of any consistently excellent school system.	1
Introduce taught reading comprehension strategies in class teaching and booster groups	EEF identifies reading comprehension strategies as a low cost, high impact intervention.	1
Purchase and monitor use of Chromebooks for PPG pupils in KS2	Impact of learning technology recognised in DfE 'Realising the potential of Technology in education' 2019 and EEF 'Using digital technology to improve learning.	3
Embedding vocabulary focused development, and specific teaching of spelling including induction of ECT teachers and new staff.	There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are inexpensive to implement with high impact on reading. The specific teaching and promotion of vocabulary needs to take place. The impact of vocabulary development is fully supported by a wide body of research. Spelling continues to be a limiting factor for many of our pupil premium children, so staff need to be	4, 1

	supported to continue to develop their skills in this area.	
Enhancement of maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance with CPD related to 'Maths Mastery'.	The DfE non-statutory guidance has been produced in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, drawing on evidence-based approaches, including the benefit of a 'Maths Mastery' approach.	2
Improve the quality of well-being support for learners and embed BLP (Behaviours for Learning) into routine educational practices, supported by professional development and training for staff. Implement new trauma-informed approach to behaviour management.	There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life, with behaviour interventions identified as have impact for low cost by the EEF. Metacognition and self-regulation are identified by EEF as high impact, low cost approaches.	5, 6

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

Budgeted cost: £180,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks: New evidence https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/lexia	1
Provide school-led tutoring for pupils whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. A significant proportion of the pupils who receive tutoring will be	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:	1, 2, 6, 8

disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.		
Provide in school, focused support group in reading comprehension, writing and maths to support pupils falling behind.	Small group tuition identified as having a moderate impact based on low cost by EEF. Quality Teaching Assistant led interventions identified as having impact based on moderate costs.	1,2,4,8
SALT TA to implement speech and language programmes devised by S&L therapist. Speech therapist from outside agency to train or deliver sessions/work with pupils 1:1 on specific SALT targets.	Development of oral language has been shown to have at least 6 months+ impact. The sessions need to be regular and matched the child's developmental age. Sessions will take place across the school, with a key focus in EYFS initially as it has been identified through research and our own observations that language skills have declined in young children. Link between improved language skills with improved reading skills	5

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

Budgeted cost: £30,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
TA trained in ELSA and mentoring to work with pupils in 1:1 small groups to address SEMH barriers to learning.	The importance of a child's well-being and its impact on learning is well documented. Post COVID-19, the provision for wellbeing and ELSA is even more important. By providing in-house ELSA and Drawing and Talking interventions, we are able to intervene quickly to support children where teachers or parents have identified a need. By training more teaching assistants on the well-being support materials, we will be able to support more children. Behaviour interventions identified as providing moderate impact for low cost	6

	by EEF. Evidence suggests highest impacts for approaches that focus on self-management or role-play and rehearsal.	
Provision of breakfast for all through association with 'Magic Breakfast'	Research carried out by public health experts at Cardiff University and published in the Journal of Public Health Nutrition, looking at longitudinal effects on standardised school performance – finds that children who eat breakfast, and who eat a better quality breakfast, achieve higher academic outcomes.	6, 7
Providing a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance and aspiration for disadvantaged pupils	Arts participation and physical activity identified as low cost interventions with moderate impact.	6
Access to wider curriculum opportunities. Breakfast and Afterschool club; Clubs; Music lessons, Workshops: Trips and residential.	Access to Breakfast club and After-school club enables us to support our pupil premium families. By providing this option, those families are more able to balance getting their children to school and collecting them if they have part time jobs, or other children with needs. Access to clubs enables children to have access to opportunities, which they might not experience.	
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's advice on improving attendance. EWO support to improve attendance	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence. Some of our families need more support in their lives to ensure that their children attend school regularly and they can support their learning. The impact of lack of attendance is well known and for a few of our children, it is significantly limiting their progress. By working with the family and outside agencies, such as CAHMS, DCF, MHST, Early Help, Social services we can support them to help their children.	7
Contingency fund for acute issues.	Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	All

Total budgeted cost: £220,000

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 2022 to 2023 academic year.

The outcome of national tests in 2024-25 showed that the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in reading, writing, maths combined at Ecclesbourne was above national average. Ecclesbourne received a letter from the Secretary of State noting that the attainment of disadvantaged pupils at Ecclesbourne was in the top 25% of schools nationally. Progress of pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, was above the national average in reading, writing and maths. The progress of pupils with high prior attainment, including disadvantaged pupils, was below the national average in reading and maths and this remains a key focus area.

We believe that being able to read well provides one of the fastest routes to social change. We have invested heavily in phonics resources, the development of a high quality reading curriculum, high quality texts and training for staff.

As evidenced in schools across the country, school closure was most detrimental to our disadvantaged pupils, who were not able to benefit from our pupil premium funded improvements to teaching and targeted interventions. The impact of this was mitigated by our resolution to maintain a high quality curriculum, including during periods of partial closure, which was aided by use of online resources and teaching. We aim to continue to support our disadvantaged pupils with technological support, including the provision of Chromebooks to access home learning opportunities.

At times when all pupils were expected to attend school, absence among disadvantaged pupils was higher than their peers and an increase in persistent absence in this group is why attendance is a focus of our current plan.

Our assessments and observations indicated that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly impacted due to COVID-19-related issues, which continue in the aftermath of the pandemic. The impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged pupils. We used pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We are building on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.

Further information (optional)

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:

- Embedding more effective practice around feedback, where EEF research has demonstrated that this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- A programme of yoga and mindfulness workshops for all pupils to develop emotional resilience and support mental health
- A programme of outdoor learning for all pupils to support mental health and enrich and broaden pupil's experiences
- Utilising a trained Mental Health practitioner through 'Off the Record' to support pupils identified by staff and parents as needing well-being support. Use of 1:1 therapy support for children who have experienced trauma.
- Support for families through the Willows centre as we know that supporting families directly supports our pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils. This includes Family learning classes, weekly Felix Project free food market, stay and play for under fives.

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we looked at a number of reports, studies and research papers about effective use of pupil premium, the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.

We used the EEF's implementation guidance to help us develop our strategy and to diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.

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