

Pupil Premium Strategy - Holmer Green Junior School

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 | Holmer Green Junior School |
| Number of pupils in school | 246 |
| Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils | 9% |
| Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended) | 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 |
| Date this statement was published | December 2025 |
| Date on which it will be reviewed | October 2026 |
| Statement authorised by | Mr Robin Cusdin Headteacher |
| Pupil premium lead | Mr Robin Cusdin Headteacher |
| Governor / Trustee lead | David Eteen, Chair of Governors |

Funding overview

| Detail | Amount |
|---|---------|
| Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year | £33,330 |
| Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year | £Nil |
| 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 | £ |

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

We will consider the challenges faced by pupils, for example those who have a social worker, may be a young carer or who are managing mental health challenges. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

Quality first teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged pupils require the most support. 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. Implicit in the intended outcomes detailed below, is the intention that non-disadvantaged pupils' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, using both qualitative and quantitative data, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- 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 | Speech and language assessments along with observations and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident throughout KS2 and, in general, are more prevalent among our disadvantaged pupils than their peers. |
| 2 | Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics and more limited opportunities for reading than their peers. Both these factors negatively impacts their development as readers. |

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| 3 | <p>Internal and external (where available) assessments indicate that maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>On entry to Year 3, baseline assessments show that 50%-100% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 55% - 71% of other pupils. This gap remains steady to the end of KS2.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Our assessments (including wellbeing survey), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, and a lack of enrichment opportunities away from school. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment.</p> |

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 language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils. | Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment. |
| Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils. | KS2 reading outcomes in 2025/26 show that more than 65% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard. |
| Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2. | KS2 maths outcomes in 2025/26 show that more than 65% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard. |
| To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils. | <p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2025/26 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations • percentage of pupils above the threshold of the happiness survey increase • an increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils |
| To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils. | <p>Sustained high attendance from 2025/26 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 3.4%, with no attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers. • the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 3% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 1% lower than their peers. |

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: **£16,638**

| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>Purchase of standardized diagnostic assessments.</p> <p>Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly.</p> | <p>Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction:</p> <p>Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p> | <p>1, 2, 3, 4</p> |
| <p>Embedding dialogic activities across the school curriculum. These can support pupils to articulate key ideas, consolidate understanding and extend vocabulary.</p> <p>We will purchase resources and fund ongoing teacher training and release time.</p> | <p>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 impacts on reading:</p> <p>Oral language interventions Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p> | <p>1</p> |
| <p>Purchase of a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils. (RWI)</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p> | <p>2</p> |
| <p>Enhancement of our maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance.</p> <p>We will fund teacher release time to embed key skills in pupils through 1 to 1 or small group sessions</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>Maths guidance KS 1 and 2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence:</p> <p>Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3</p> | <p>3</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| <p>Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning.</p> <p>SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.</p> | <p>There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers):</p> <p>EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p> | <p>4</p> |
|--|---|----------|

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

Budgeted cost: **£36,658**

| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>Purchase of a programme to improve listening, narrative and vocabulary skills for disadvantaged pupils who have relatively low spoken language skills.</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>Oral language interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p> | <p>1, 4</p> |
| <p>Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support. (RWI)</p> | <p>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:</p> | <p>2</p> |
| <p>Provide a blend of tuition, mentoring and 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 disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>One to one tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p> <p>And in small groups:</p> <p>Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p> | <p>4</p> |

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

Budgeted cost: **£1,629**

| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Whole staff training on behaviour management and anti-bullying approaches with the aim of developing our school ethos and improving behaviour across school. | Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: Behaviour interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) | 1,2,3,4 |
| ELSA training for more staff to support PP children across school | Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: Behaviour interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) | 1,2,3,4 |

Total budgeted cost: £54,925

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 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Our internal assessments during 2024/2025 shows that the performance of disadvantaged pupils shows the vast majority improved academically over time compared to previous assessments in key areas of the curriculum. Our focus was on their wellbeing and mental health as well as their academic performance.

In using pupil premium funding to ensure that these pupils had wellbeing support and targeted interventions in school, we were able to see a positive impact on their overall wellbeing and engagement. Due to this, we are building on these strategies in this plan, along with targeted support to address the academic gaps and outcomes that were not fully realised from our previous strategies.

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

| Measure | Details |
|---------|---------|
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