



Staplehurst School

# Pupil Premium and Disadvantaged Pupils Policy

Policy reviewed and ratified by Headteacher  
Policy to be next reviewed

**Date**  
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## Introduction

### School Vision and Values

At Staplehurst School...

#### **Children come first; they are our future**

We build strong positive relationships and trust; as a highly inclusive school we celebrate individuality and promote well-being through excellent pastoral provision.

We promote a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning by teaching and ambitious knowledge rich curriculum that inspires curiosity and is relevant for our community.

We empower all children through our high expectations to be tolerant, respectful, determined and independent active members of a diverse local, national and global community.

We encourage all children to achieve in all areas so that they can reach their potential.

- At Staplehurst School, all members of staff and governors accept responsibility for those targeted pupils recognised as 'disadvantaged' and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs.
- Every child considered to be 'disadvantaged' is valued, respected and entitled to develop to their full potential, irrespective of disadvantage.
- Any funding shall be targeted at closing the academic attainment gap, using research driven and impact proven strategies, which will support Pupil Premium eligible learners.

## Aims

This policy aims to:

- **Provide background information** about the pupil premium grant so all members of the school community understand its purpose and which pupils are eligible
- Set out **how the school will make decisions** on pupil premium spending
- **Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved** in managing the pupil premium in school

## Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium [allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2024 to 2025](#), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It is also based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [using the pupil premium](#), [virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service pupil premium](#).

## Purpose of the grant

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The Pupil Premium provides support to these pupils to accelerate their progress and help them to reach their potential.

The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so they can reach their full potential.

## Use of the grant

### Overall Objectives:

Our school will ensure that the Pupil Premium funding reaches the groups of pupils for whom it was intended and that it makes a significant impact on their education and lives.

The Pupil Premium will be used to provide additional educational support to improve progress and raise achievement for these pupils.

The funding will be used to narrow and close the gap between the achievement of these pupils and their peers.

The school will use the additional funding to address any underlying inequalities between children eligible for Pupil Premium and others.

### How we will ensure effective use of the Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium will be clearly identifiable within the budget.

The Headteacher and Assistant Head for Inclusion, in consultation with the governors, senior leadership team and other staff, will decide how the Pupil Premium is spent for the benefit of the entitled pupils.

In making provision for disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be disadvantaged or underachieving. We also recognise that not all pupils who are disadvantaged are registered for or qualify for free school meals.

Therefore, the school will allocate support to any groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being disadvantaged, in addition to those in direct receipt of the Pupil Premium.

The school will assess the additional provision that should be made for the individual pupils and will be accountable for how it has used the additional funding to support the achievement of those pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

The Headteacher and Assistant Head for Inclusion will report to the governing body and parents regarding how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims, including publishing online information about how the Premium has been used.

Our school will track the impact of the strategies put into place through the funding to ensure that we can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled children.

We will monitor, evaluate and review the success of the impact of the pupil premium funding.

## **Provision**

We will seek, continuously, to develop and refine strategies and interventions which will improve the progress and attainment of these pupils, taking account of the findings of current educational research in this field, ushc as by the [Education Endowment Foundation](#). Examples of the range of provision we may put in place include:

- Regularly analysing attendance of disadvantaged pupils and applying early intervention as appropriate
- Providing small group or 1:1 support to focus on overcoming barriers to learning (intervention, counselling and pastoral support)
- Targeted intervention in maths and English to support pupils in making progress
- Engaging external support services to further support overcoming barriers to learning with families.
- Additional support for enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities

We will publish our strategy statement on the school's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the school website, in line with the conditions of grant, and using the templates on GOV.UK.

Our pupil premium strategy statement is available here: [Pupil Premium | Staplehurst School](#).

## **Eligible pupils**

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils across Early Years Foundation State, Key Stage One and Key Stage 2. Eligible pupils fall into the categories explained below.

### **Ever 6 free school meals**

Pupils recorded in the most recent October school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).

This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent October census.

This also includes pupils with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The government has permanently extended FSM eligibility to include children in all households with NRPF.

It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches.

### **Looked-after children**

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales for at least 1 day. Allocations will be provisionally based on the children looked after data return in March of the previous year, and then confirmed in December of the current year based on the children looked after data return in March of the current year.

### **Previously looked-after children**

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census who:

- Were looked after by a local authority or other state care immediately before being adopted, or
- Left local authority or other state care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order

This includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales.

## Ever 6 service children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census:

- With a parent serving in the regular armed forces
- Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance), including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census
- In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence because 1 of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

## Roles and responsibilities

### Headteacher and senior leadership team

The headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up to date, and ensuring it is implemented across the school
- Ensuring all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to the governing board on an ongoing basis
- Publishing the pupil premium strategy statement on the school's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the school website, in line with the DfE's [guidance on using the pupil premium](#) and using the templates on GOV.UK.
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment

### Governors

The governing body are responsible for:

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Ensuring the school is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium
- Challenging the headteacher to use the pupil premium in the most effective way
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

## **Other school staff**

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium
- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff

## **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head for Inclusion. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.