

Pupil premium strategy statement - Milton Keynes Academy

Before completing this template, read the Education Endowment Foundation's guidance on [using your pupil premium funding effectively](#) and DfE's [using pupil premium guidance](#), which includes the 'menu of approaches'. It is for school leaders to decide what activity to spend their pupil premium (and recovery premium) on, within the framework set out by the menu.

All schools that receive pupil premium (and recovery premium) are required to use this template to complete and publish a pupil premium statement on their school website by 31 December every academic year.

If you are starting a new pupil premium strategy plan, use this blank template. If you are continuing a strategy plan from last academic year, you may prefer to edit your existing statement, if that version was published using the template.

Before publishing your completed statement, delete the instructions (text in italics) in this template, and this text box.

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
Number of pupils in school	933
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	49.7%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2025-2026
Date this statement was published	December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	June 2026
Statement authorised by	Gordon Farquhar
Pupil premium lead	Kristal Watkins
Governor / Trustee lead	Diane Taylor

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£503,100
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years <i>(enter £0 if not applicable)</i>	£0
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£503,100

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 the curriculum. 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 vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

High-quality 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, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches detailed below that we have adopted, complement each other to help pupils excel:

- To diminish any gaps in attainment and progress outcomes between those students from disadvantaged backgrounds against national for non disadvantaged by the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11)
- To increase attainment and progress outcomes by disadvantaged students in English and Mathematics
- To improve students' literacy skills to help them achieve stronger outcomes and the ability to communicate effectively with others
- To reduce absence, lateness to school, exclusions and improve attitude to learning
- To ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all leavers through access to high quality curriculum, academic pathways, Post 16 destinations, enrichment opportunities and experiences

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Passive learners
2	Low literacy levels
3	Low attendance & poor punctuality
4	Complex social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH)
5	Low cultural capital
6	Low parental engagement

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
Reduce gaps in attainment and progress outcomes between PP and non-PP students at KS4	Reduce gaps in attainment and progress outcomes between PP and non-PP students at KS4 outcomes
Increase attainment and progress outcomes by disadvantaged students in English and Mathematics	Improved KS4 outcomes in English and Maths for PP students
To improve students' literacy skills to help them achieve stronger outcomes and the ability to communicate effectively with others.	Improved KS4 outcomes Improved reading age scores (KS3 students)
Reduce absence, lateness to school, exclusions and improve attitude to learning	Improved attendance, reduced persistent absence, reduced fixed term exclusions, improved attitude to learning scores
Ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all leavers through access to high quality curriculum, academic pathways, Post 16 destinations, enrichment opportunities and experiences	Low NEET figures (end of Year 11) Increased numbers of PP students participating in extra-curricular activities

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: £67,412

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Whole school training programme focused on developing students' literacy skills effectively to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective diagnosis of reading difficulties • Explicit teaching of reading comprehension strategies <p>Curriculum development to embed these strategies.</p>	<p>Reading comprehension strategies are high impact on average (+7 months in secondary schools). Lower attaining pupils appear to benefit in particular from the explicit teaching of strategies to comprehend text.</p> <p>Supporting struggling readers is likely to require a coordinated effort across the curriculum and a combination of approaches that include phonics, reading comprehension and oral language approaches.</p>	Low literacy levels
<p>Whole school training programme on explicit teaching of metacognitive strategies to help students plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaffolding • Modelling • Responding to feedback • Effective challenge and support <p>Curriculum development to embed these strategies.</p>	<p>The average impact of metacognition and self-regulation strategies is +7 months of additional progress. Approaches in Maths and Science are particularly successful.</p> <p>There is some evidence to suggest that disadvantaged pupils are less likely to use metacognitive and self-regulatory strategies without being explicitly taught these strategies.</p>	Passive learners
Whole school training programme to improve teachers' behaviour management	Universal behaviour approaches have positive overall effects (+4 months). Professional development to staff is key to ensure high quality delivery and consistency.	Poor behaviour and attitudes to learning
Range of leadership CPD opportunities designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning for all PP students	<p>High quality teaching improves pupil outcomes, and effective professional development offers a crucial tool to develop teaching quality and enhance children's outcomes in the classroom.</p> <p>(EEF <i>Effective professional development recommendations</i>)</p>	Low literacy levels

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

Budgeted cost: £ 136,026

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
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Implementation of KS3 reading programme to target book discussion with students, explicitly extend their spoken vocabulary and use structured questioning to develop reading comprehension.	On average, oral language approaches have a high impact on pupil outcomes (+6 months progress). Those interventions with frequent sessions (+3 times a week) over a sustained period appear to be the most successful.	Low literacy levels
Targeted reading programme with PP students reading aloud and discussing their books with sixth form students	On average, oral language approaches have a high impact on pupil outcomes (+6 months progress). Those interventions with frequent sessions (+3 times a week) over a sustained period appear to be the most successful. Peer tutoring +5 months	Low literacy levels
Alternative Provision placements for PP students at risk of permanent exclusion or unable to access mainstream education for other reasons	Behaviour interventions can produce moderate improvements in academic performance (+4 months) and decrease problematic behaviours through developing students' cognitive and social skills.	Reducing exclusions and improving attitude to learning
Targeted academic interventions for Year 11 PP students.	Small group tuition +4 months. It is likely to be most effective if targeted at students' specific needs.	Passive learners

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

Budgeted cost: £ 299,662

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Specialised and targeted attendance support plans monitored and developed by year and wider inclusion team improve attendance of all disadvantaged students and their families (including use of school funded PCSO). Additional financial support to prevent barriers to student attendance (<i>uniform, breakfast club</i>)	EEF is currently undertaking a rapid evidence assessment on attendance interventions and programmes.	Low attendance & poor punctuality
Specialised and targeted programmes monitored and developed by year teams to support students with challenging behaviours Tiered and comprehensive range of SEMH interventions provided to improve students' behaviour and	Behaviour interventions can produce moderate improvements in academic performance (+4 months) and decrease problematic behaviours through developing students' cognitive and social skills. The average impact of successful SEL interventions in secondary age students is +5 months academic pro-	Reducing exclusions and improving attitude to learning

provide appropriate mental health support (including school-funded counselling) Use of inclusion provision to provide temporary, short-term placements for students at risk of permanent exclusion, reintegrating from periods of absence from school and/or requiring additional mental health support.	gress over the course of a year. They also have an identifiable and valuable impact on attitudes to learning and social relationships in school.	Low attendance & poor punctuality
Funded extra-curricular activities (<i>Duke of Edinburgh, Music tuition</i>) Inter-school creative arts opportunities (<i>Shakespeare Schools Festival, Singing workshops etc.</i>) Trips and visits funded	Arts participation approaches can have a positive impact on academic outcomes in other areas of the curriculum (+3 months) Wider benefits such as more positive attitudes to learning and increased well-being have also consistently been reported.	Building cultural capital
Workshop sessions for the families of disadvantaged students in each year group, providing specialist advice and guidance about supporting their child's academic progress (<i>literacy</i>) Range of technical platforms used to provide inclusive communication for hard-to-reach families and improve their attendance to events to support their child's academic progress	The average impact of the parental engagement approaches is about an additional +4 months' progress (higher for pupils with low prior attainment). Effects tend to be higher for literacy (+5 months) than for mathematics (+3 months). Approaches where a parent works directly with their child one-to-one typically show greater impact (+5 months).	Improve parental engagement
Targeted year-long mentoring programmes for PP students through local business links to improve students' self-esteem and ambition (<i>Urban Scholars, Can Do Woman, Deloitte Compact Mentor Programme</i>)	The impact of mentoring is likely to have a positive impact on attainment (+2 months) Some studies have found more positive impacts for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, and for non-academic outcomes such as attitudes to school, attendance and behaviour.	Reducing exclusions and improving attitude to learning Low attendance & poor punctuality

Total budgeted cost: £ 503,100