

# **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy**

*Part of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust*



## **Pupil Premium Policy**

**2025-2026**

## **Principles**

At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we take seriously our responsibility to use the Pupil Premium to improve the outcomes for children identified as socially disadvantaged. Every child with his/her individual needs and gifts is unique.

At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we are committed to meeting their academic, pastoral, social and academic needs in a nurturing and caring environment. This is an essential, integral part of the positive development of the whole school community.

The Pupil Premium will be used strategically for every entitled child to develop their true potential, irrespective of need.

As with every child in our care, a child who is considered to be 'socially disadvantaged' is valued, respected and entitled to develop to his/her full potential, irrespective of need.

## **Background**

The Pupil Premium is additional funding from a government initiative to help schools close the attainment gap between children from low-income and other disadvantaged families and their peers. The premium is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their full potential. If a child has been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the past 6 years or has been looked after for at least 1 day (LAC) the school receives an amount per head within their budget. A provision is also made for children who have a parent in the armed services.

At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we will be using the indicator of those eligible for Free School meals as our target children to 'diminish the difference' regarding attainment. We are committed to ensuring maximum progress for all groups of children and strives to close any gaps.

The Government are not dictating how schools should spend this money, but are clear that schools will need to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment, and 'diminish the difference'. Schools will be accountable for narrowing the gap, and there is a planned reform to the school performance tables to include new measures that show the attainment of pupils who receive the pupil premium compare with their peers.

We have a clear, strategic approach to the use of specific Pupil Premium funding and plans are integrated into wider school support and improvement systems. These are monitored and evaluated regularly and in-depth data analysis ensures that the correct support and strategies are identified to maximise progress.

Strong leadership systems ensure that Pupil Premium funding has the necessary impact. This includes identified governors having responsibility for Pupil Premium. All matters relating to the Pupil Premium are reported back to the Governors, ensuring that the school is held to account for the impact of spending.

## **Aims**

- The Head teacher and Pupil Premium lead will be responsible for Pupil Premium provision, with specific delegated responsibilities taken by members of the Senior Leadership Team or wider school staff (e.g. English and maths provision, welfare and inclusion support)
- *At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we will aim to be fair and transparent in our use and distribution of the Pupil Premium funding.*
- *At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we will ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of the pupils and in particular those identified as being socially disadvantaged.*
- *At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy we will ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who are identified as belonging to vulnerable groups, this includes*

*ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed*

- *At St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy in making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.*
- We recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered, or have been registered, for Free School Meals (FSM), so we will ensure that entitled parents and carers are supported sensitively in applying for the meals, but also therefore the additional funding
  
- Pupil premium funding will be allocated to those pupils who are eligible, including proportional funding of strategies accessed by Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium students alike
- The majority of our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving students to at least age related expectations (ARE) especially in English and maths, but even further where they have the potential to achieve beyond ARE
- We will also use Pupil Premium in areas where eligible pupils show a particular aptitude, but where their parents' financial circumstances prevent them from accessing specialist coaching or instruction
- The Pupil Premium funding will be allocated to a series of interventions grouped progressively, the ultimate outcome of which will be that pupils will achieve their academic and personal potential
- Additional provision for SEND pupils will be funded through a combination of any SEND funding and their Pupil Premium allocation where applicable
- We will constantly monitor the effectiveness of strategies used and review provision in the light of tracking data and other evidence (e.g. Termly Progress Reports)
- We will inform parents, carers and pupils about their eligibility for Pupil premium, and where possible we will account to them for its use and impact
- We will involve the widest possible group of appropriate stakeholders, especially members of the staff team, the Governing Body, pupils and their families, in making suggestions about Pupil Premium strategies and evaluating their outcomes

### **Provision**

In order to meet the above requirements, the Academy Committee of St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy will ensure that provision is made which secures the teaching and learning opportunities that meet the needs of all pupils. Our priority is to ensure that all children aim high and reach their full potential. There should be no difference in attainment of pupils who receive pupil premium and those who do not. As part of the additional provision made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, the Committee members of the Academy will ensure that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed through half termly pupil progress meetings.

In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, the Committee of the Academy recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.

### **The range of provision**

- Facilitating pupils' access to education
- Access to appropriate and well-designed intervention strategies
- Facilitating pupils access to the curriculum
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities
- Access to a wide range of enrichment activities such as choir, sports clubs, Mini Vinnies, recorder club, chess, dance and art/craft clubs

- Alternative support and intervention, arranged through a pupil's parents, where funds are available after securing the school's own programme
- Access to the school breakfast club and the additional reading support provision within the breakfast club where necessary.

### **Reporting Effectiveness of Pupil Premium Grant**

At *St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy* the Principal will produce a report each term to the appropriate academy committee on the use and effectiveness of the PPG.

The report will include the following information;

- A detailed analysis of the progress made by children and identified groups in terms of narrowing the achievement gap (Pupil Premium against non-Pupil Premium students).
- Provision for identified children and groups across the school.
- An analysis and evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the allocated PPG in terms of the progress made by the students receiving a particular provision.

It will be the responsibility of the main committee to ensure and outline of the school's progress towards 'diminishing the difference' for socially disadvantaged pupils is given to the school's Governors on a termly basis. The governing body will consider the information provided from the Curriculum Committee in the light of the data relating to the progress of the school's socially disadvantaged pupils in conjunction with the revised schools' league tables.

Members of the Academy Committee will ensure that a pupil premium strategy is published on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'closing the gap', for socially disadvantaged students, and what the impact has been. This strategy will be available on the website.

### **Success Criteria**

The evaluation of this policy is based on how quickly the school can 'diminish the difference' between socially disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Targets will be identified and evaluated annually and included in the School Development Plan. The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for socially disadvantaged children is effective
- The vast majority of socially disadvantaged children will meet their individual attainment and personal targets.
- Effective parental pupil school support.
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils.
- Having a whole-school approach.
- Create a positive school atmosphere in which pupils' differences are recognised and valued as full members of the school community; developing confident and independent learners.

### **Appeals**

Any appeal in connection with the disposition of the pupil premium funding will be dealt with through the Governors' appeals panel.

**Date: 18.3.26**

**To be reviewed: 17.3.27**