

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	National C of E Academy
Number of pupils in school	11-16 1039 11-18 1129
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	11-16 25%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2024-2027 (reviewed annually)
Date this statement was published	November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	October 2026
Statement authorised by	Martin Brailsford
Pupil premium lead	Alex Hawkins
Governor / Trustee lead	Jude Robinson

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£246128.00

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	£246128.00
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Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Through the over-arching Christian values of the academy and our vision which is “to experience life in all its fullness” (John10:10) the following should be strived for:

- Disadvantaged student literacy and numeracy gaps are identified and, where they exist, are addressed.
- Disadvantaged students are enabled to participate in curricular and extracurricular activities in line with their non-disadvantaged peers. Lack of resources does not impinge on their ability to thrive.
- Disadvantaged students at risk of underperformance are identified and supported to secure their progress.
- Increased attendance rates for disadvantaged students.
- Students are provided with resources that have a positive impact on the progress and progression and which they might otherwise not have access to.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Low levels of literacy and numeracy on entry, affecting progress across the curriculum
2	Disadvantaged students lack of aspiration, resources and opportunities, social capital etc.
3	Increasing levels of disengagement particularly evident in disadvantaged students as they move through the school and into KS4

4	Low Attendance of disadvantaged students leading to fewer learning hours and slower progress
5	Lack of resources outside of school to provide support to education, transition and to build aspiration
6	Reduce the negative impact of socio-economic factors for disadvantaged students
7	Families of students who are eligible for pupil premium funding (especially forces families) to have strong engagement with the academy.

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
Disadvantaged student literacy and numeracy gaps are identified and, where they exist, are addressed.	All disadvantaged students have literacy and numeracy assessed on entry to the school. Intervention packages exist for general need. Specific intervention is used where appropriate, intervention is effective reviewed. Literacy and numeracy gaps decrease.
Disadvantaged students are enabled to participate in curricular and extracurricular activities in line with their non-disadvantaged peers. Lack of resources does not impinge on their opportunity to make progress.	All PP students participate in a residential trip during their time in school (including the Hagg farm in key stage 3). Disadvantaged students can access extracurricular activities including clubs. Disadvantaged receive support with CEIAG and can access quality work-experience placement. Student voice shows that disadvantaged students feel well supported in school.

PP students at risk of underperformance are identified and supported to secure their progress.	The school has an effective method of tracking progress which highlights PP students. Intervention accurately assesses the need of learners and is effective. Intervention programmes in school including Catch Up work, accelerated reader in KS3, extra support in lessons and the work of intervention tutors leading to increased progress.
Increased attendance rates for disadvantaged students.	The attendance gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students reduces. PA for PP students falls. Where attendance is a concern there is effective intervention.
Students are provided with resources that have a positive impact on the progress and progression and which they might otherwise not have access to.	Where lack of resource affects progress, a solution is found. ICT hardware is available to all disadvantaged students. A study review is completed for all PP students to gauge access to a study environment.
Families of students who are eligible for pupil premium funding to have strong engagement with the academy.	All families to feel they have a linked member of staff at the academy who can act as an advocate for their child(ren) who champions their best interests.
	Forces students and families to have bespoke support and opportunities to work together and share experiences

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: £ 120,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Disadvantaged focus included in whole staff and faculty meetings throughout year to identify practical strategies which can be implemented to support disadvantaged students. Raised expectation of all teachers to have identified barriers to learning and strategies to overcome those barriers for disadvantaged students in class.	EEF research shows that high quality teaching for all has a disproportionately positive impact on lower ability and more deprived students.	2,3,6
Academic transition provided to support students with the move from key stage 2 to key stage 3.	Research identifies that early intervention for literacy and numeracy has significantly positive impact.	1,3,4
Improvement in tracking vulnerable learners, including a focus at each assessment point and through individual tracking as part of the AMP process.	Research shows that the best intervention is that which is personalized to the individual. Tracking individuals and groups will help identify more accurately where gaps lie and enable intervention to be more targeted.	2,3,
Financial support for visits subject such as High Forensic Science Day this is an opportunity for students to spend a day with an external visitor looking at applications of forensic science, the importance of robust evidence in the criminal justice system and possible future careers in policing.	Pockets of Poverty, DCSF 2010 made clear that this is a particular risk in schools like ours.	5,6

Financial support for faculty areas who use innovative methods for broadening cultural capital.	EFF have consistently written about the impact of cultural capital on the aspirations of PP students are enabled to participate in curricular and extra-curricular activities in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.	2,5,6
Pen, pencil, ruler, pencil case and calculator offered to all PP students at the start of the year. Support with the cost of uniform.	Internal analysis of behaviour logs showed that disadvantaged students were getting proportionately more behaviour logs for lack of equipment or uniform. This then leads to increasing disengagement and resentment.	2, 6
All revision materials and text books recommended for KS4 students provided to PP students	Ofsted guidance regarding high profile of PP students and classroom teachers taking responsibility for their progress. Knowledge that many of their peers will have all the revision materials provided by their parents.	2,3,6

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

Budgeted cost: £ 75,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
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Catch Up classes for students entering Y7 with low standardized scores in Maths and Reading	Focus on literacy and numeracy is an academy priority. Small group tuition recognized by EEF toolkit as having good impact on progress. Accelerated reader used widely for disadvantaged students especially in year 7.	1,
Faculty leaders for maths, science and English act as intervention tutors – using tutor time to give extra support to KS4 students in receipt of PP.	Tutor time and after school used for small group interventions.	1,3
Welcoming published authors into the academy, students to be able to access high quality literature to support their emotional and academic development through being able to read widely and	Disadvantaged students on average have significantly lower levels of vocabulary and writing skills	1,6

without any barriers to accessing these materials. The students will also engage with the authors directly during a writing work shop therefore nurturing their academic aspirations to write and communicate effectively.		
Horsforth quadrant used, as well as other analysis to identify students who require the most support and this prioritises disadvantaged students.	Identifying those at greatest risk of underachievement and direct intervention accordingly.	2,3

Unit Award Scheme programme developed by AQA that we are using to support SEND/PP students to recognise their achievements in the classroom.	Students will receive personalised assessment criteria from their teachers, and regular certificates to acknowledge their achievements in lessons. This is intended to build their confidence as they progress through school and recognises the work that goes on in every lesson, not just in summative assessments.	2,3,4
Paid for schemes to support literacy and numeracy including New Group Reading Tests and other GL assessment packages as required through the inclusion and examinations team.	Reading Comprehension strategies, digital technology and small group interventions shown in EEF toolkit as having high impact.	1
Specialist small group intervention facilitated through faculty leaders of core subjects during tutor time for carefully selected students.	Small group intervention and in some cases 1 to 1 has the potential to have significant impact as identified in the EEF toolkit.	1,3
Continue with additional staffing in the pastoral team to allow for individual approach. Create individual plans created for students who are disadvantaged and where data shows they are not achieving. Plan shows identified need and SMART target for improvement.	Research shows that individual intervention which is targeted at needs is the most effective.	3,4,5

Behavioural interventions put in place for those students whose behaviour is damaging their own or their peers' progress.	The EEF Toolkit suggests that targeted interventions matched to specific students with particular needs or behavioural issues can be effective, especially for older pupils. Work with TAs and Behaviour Mentor seen to have impact on students with particular SEND needs.	3,4
Increased targeting of absence for all students with a focus on those eligible for PP. Attendance over to run intervention sessions for disadvantaged students who are at risk of being PA	PP attendance identified as being well below that for other students in the school. Robust national evidence that poor attendance leads to lower outcomes.	4

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

Budgeted cost: £51,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Support for Breakfast Club staffing and credit added to all disadvantaged students SQUID account every day	A positive and calm start to the school day along with ensuring vulnerable students have had breakfast is a great support in enabling them to succeed in lessons.	3,4,6
Careers interviews offered to all PP students in KS4 including support for progression programme for those most at risk. This includes mock interviews and careers interviews with SLT.	Ensuring progression routes for all students is key to their life chances and has an impact on their engagement with GCSE courses. This work sits alongside our tackling of the increased deficit for disadvantaged students	2,3,5

Development of the inclusion provision to include an on-site alternative provision.	This should provide a more inclusive system of support with a differentiated graduated response for students who are not accessing education in a mainstream way.	3,4,5
Key members of the attendance team (including Attendance Manager and Educational Welfare Officer) undertake numerous activities including organising practical support for those with attendance issues; with external agencies such as HRET and CAMHS in order to combat barriers to learning.	This should provide students with a a more inclusive system of support with a differentiated, graduated response for students who are not accessing education in a mainstream way.	4,6
The academy employs an onsite counsellor who meets with students on a one-to-one basis and in small groups to discuss a variety of complex issues and needs ranging from anxiety to significant mental health needs.	Data tell us that there are more students currently with mental health concerns which has been exacerbated by the covid19/lockdown experience which students have suffered through.	3,4,5
Support group for forces children which is led by a designated member of staff, this groups offer therapeutic support, opportunity to share experiences and other opportunities for students from armed forces families to be supported in a bespoke way (this may include counselling, keeping of materials such as diaries and scrapbooks, building of resilience).	This provision is to support with: • Family mobility • Separation (if a family member is spending extended periods away from the family home) • Parental deployment	7

Total budgeted cost: £24600

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

Impact 2024-2025

All disadvantaged students undergo baseline assessments in literacy and numeracy upon entry. Targeted interventions such as Catch-Up classes and Accelerated Reader have led to measurable

improvements in reading ages and numeracy scores. Students show increased confidence and engagement in core subjects.

Students eligible for PP funding, including those from forces families, have full access to enrichment activities such as residential trips (e.g., Hagg Farm), clubs, and cultural capital experiences. Financial support has removed barriers to participation, and student voice surveys indicate a strong sense of inclusion and enjoyment.

Improved tracking systems and personalised intervention plans have enabled early identification of underperformance. Faculty-led tutoring, structured interventions and bespoke support in faculties have resulted in improved progress across the academic journey for students, particularly in KS4. Whilst the outcomes for 2025 were below those achieved in 2024 the difference in performance between students eligible for PP funding and those who are not is still line with national average. Progress data for this year group has not been published in the same way as previous years due to the cancellation of key stage 2 SATs due to Covid-19.

Attendance gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students have narrowed due to targeted interventions, including pastoral support and EWO involvement. Persistent absence rates among students eligible for PP funding have declined, and breakfast club access has supported punctuality and readiness to learn.

All students eligible for PP funding receive essential equipment, uniform support, and revision materials. ICT access and study environment reviews have ensured equitable learning conditions. These provisions have reduced behavioural incidents linked to lack of resources and improved engagement.

Onsite counselling, behavioural interventions, and inclusion provision have supported students with complex needs. Mental health support has been particularly impactful post-COVID, with students reporting improved emotional resilience and reduced anxiety.

Bespoke support for forces families has fostered strong engagement with the academy. The designated support group provides therapeutic activities, peer connection, and resilience-building. Families report feeling well-supported during transitions and deployments, and students benefit from consistent pastoral care and advocacy.

Impact 2025-2026

The academy's Pupil Premium strategy had a demonstrable impact on outcomes for disadvantaged students during 2025-26. Despite the cohort having no Key Stage 2 prior attainment data due to the cancellation of SATs during the pandemic, disadvantaged students achieved significant improvements across all headline attainment measures. These outcomes indicate that the combination of high-quality teaching, targeted intervention, pastoral support and wider enrichment provision is having a positive impact on reducing educational disadvantage.

Improvement in GCSE Outcomes

Disadvantaged students showed the strongest gains of any key group within the school. Attainment 8 improved from 30 in 2025 to 37 in 2026, representing an increase of 7 points. English Attainment 8 increased from 3.3 to 4.2, whilst Maths Attainment 8 increased from 3.1 to 3.6. These improvements suggest that investment in literacy, numeracy, revision resources, intervention programmes and small-group tuition has contributed to stronger outcomes in core subjects.

The proportion of disadvantaged students achieving a grade 4+ in English and Maths increased from 30% to 43%, an improvement of 13 percentage points. The proportion achieving a grade 5+ in English and Maths increased from just 8% to 24%, representing a significant improvement of 16 percentage points in a single year.

Narrowing the Disadvantage Gap

Whilst a gap remains between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students, the gap reduced significantly during 2025-26. The school reports that these improvements have substantially narrowed attainment differences between groups. The progress made by disadvantaged students exceeded improvements seen in the whole cohort and demonstrates that targeted support is having a positive impact on reducing educational disadvantage.

Impact of Literacy and Numeracy Support

The school's focus on literacy and numeracy intervention continues to deliver positive outcomes. The strong improvements in English and Maths performance, particularly the increase in grade 4+ and grade 5+ English and Maths outcomes, indicate that strategies such as Accelerated Reader, catch-up programmes, intervention tutoring and faculty-led support have contributed positively to disadvantaged students securing essential qualifications.

Impact of Targeted Academic Intervention

Targeted interventions delivered through Heads of Faculty, tutor programmes, revision materials and structured support have contributed to improved attainment across a range of subjects. The 2026 outcomes demonstrate that disadvantaged students made gains across English, Maths and overall Attainment 8 measures. These improvements provide evidence that personalised intervention and careful tracking through the academy's monitoring processes continue to be effective.

Impact of Wider Strategies

The academy's wider support strategies continue to reduce barriers to learning. Provision including equipment packages, uniform support, breakfast provision, revision resources, counselling, attendance support and enrichment funding has ensured that disadvantaged students can fully access the curriculum and wider school experience. The significant improvement in attainment outcomes suggests that removing practical barriers and supporting students' wellbeing has positively influenced engagement and achievement.

Evaluation

Overall, the 2025-26 academic year demonstrates strong evidence that the academy's Pupil Premium strategy is having a positive impact. Disadvantaged students achieved substantial gains in attainment, particularly in English and Maths, and the disadvantage gap narrowed considerably. The improvement of 7 Attainment 8 points, alongside increases of 13 percentage points at grade 4+ and 16 percentage points at grade 5+ in English and Maths, represents the strongest evidence to date that the academy's combination of high-quality teaching, targeted intervention and wider support strategies is contributing to improved outcomes for disadvantaged learners. Further work will continue to focus on closing remaining gaps and ensuring disadvantaged students achieve outcomes in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England

Programme	Provider
National tutoring program	Pearson
A number of PIXL programs such as LORIC, WAVE	PIXL
GL assessments such as CATs, dyslexia screening, NGRT.	GL assessment
STAR reader and accelerated reader	Renaissance learning
Lexia reading support	Lexia Learning

