



# Pupil Premium Policy

*St Marks CofE Primary School*



## What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium was introduced by the government in 2011 and is a funding stream allocated to schools in accordance with the number of children who are registered (or who have been registered at any time in the last six years) as eligible for free school meals ("Ever 6 FSM") and children who have been in care and looked after for more than one day, or who have been adopted from care. An amount is also allocated for any child whose parents are serving in the armed forces. For the purposes of this policy, any reference to "PP" is deemed to include a child who is a member of any of these groups.

## Principles

At St Mark's we believe that every child should be supported to achieve success academically, socially and physically, regardless of their background. Our Christian Values of 'love' and 'hope' underpin our inclusive ethos and beliefs in how best to educate, and this is especially true with those who are vulnerable. The targeted and strategic use of the Pupil Premium funding supports us in achieving our aim of ensuring that all children are provided with the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Although schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit, we are held accountable for how we have used the funding to support children from low-income families. The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency in our approach to supporting such children and to outline our evaluation and reporting procedures and the outcomes we expect, with a view to ensuring these are closely monitored by both the school and the governing body.

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

- The Pupil Premium funds are clearly identifiable within the school's budget. The school's finance officer is involved in tracking the allocation and regular updates on spending are provided to the governors' Finance sub-committee.
- Each year, a Pupil Premium plan is written under strategic elements with costings. This outlines the PP spending for the forthcoming year. Any changes to this are reported to the Resources committee as appropriate.
- All teaching staff and support staff are aware of who our PP children are; the progress of all PP pupils is regularly reviewed to enable any additional support required to be identified and put in place swiftly.
- The Head Teacher, PP Lead and the governing body decide how the Pupil Premium is allocated, following a needs-analysis which identifies priority classes, groups or individuals. We analyse the data and track the attainment and progress to assist us in developing strategies and exploring more effective ways of working with PP pupils. This data is analysed to check that interventions and techniques are working. Additionally, we have regard to relevant research evidence (such as the Sutton Trust) to ensure we allocate the funding to those activities which are likely to have most impact on improving achievement.
- The governors nominate a member of the governing body to be responsible for monitoring the effective use of the Pupil Premium. That governor meets regularly with the PP Lead to discuss and review the effectiveness of the current provisions funded by the Pupil Premium and the impact on improving achievement.
- The school and governing body keep under review the measures used to encourage all those who are eligible for free school meals to register for them, so that the maximum number of children benefit from the Pupil Premium.
- Clear targets for "narrowing the gap" are identified and evaluated annually and are included in the School Improvement Plan and associated target. Progress towards meeting these targets is reviewed not less than termly at the Governors' Standards Committee.

## Provision

The range of provision within the school is explicit on the PP plan written each year.

## **Reporting**

It is the responsibility of the PP Lead to produce termly reports for the Governors on:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for PP children.
- An outline of the provision that has been made since the last meeting.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of progress made by the children receiving a particular provision when compared with other forms of support.
- The attendance and punctuality of PP children compared to non-PP children and the measures being taken to narrow any gap.
- The governing body will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents, to be published on the school's website, on how the Pupil Premium for the previous academic year has been used to "narrow the gap". The report will also confirm the amount of the Pupil Premium for the current academic year, how this will be spent and the expected impact of the spending.

## **Outcomes – What we aim for**

- To have a 'whatever it takes' attitude towards supporting pupils eligible for PP funding.
- The progress of all PP children accelerates and attainment boosted.
- The achievement gap between our PP and non-PP children nationally continues to close.
- Ensuring that all PP children make at least good progress each year and reach at least age related targets in maths and English, thereby giving them greater opportunities for full participation in the wider curriculum.
- Enhanced opportunities for PP children to participate in extra-curricular activities, which will raise motivation and self-esteem.
- Where attendance has been an issue for PP children, this will improve significantly. The attendance and punctuality of PP children will be at least in line with that of non-PP children.

Policy reviewed: Spring 2024

Next review: Spring 2025