

St Cross's Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium for the 2024 to 2025 academic year) funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils. The Pupil Premium is allocated to schools to be used for children from low-income families who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSMs), children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces. Since April 2012, Pupil Premium funding was extended to children who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years.

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	St Cross Catholic Primary School
Number of pupils in school	203
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	9 pupils 4.43%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	July 2026- July 2027
Date this statement was published	July 2027
Date on which it will be reviewed	November 2027
Statement authorised by	Mrs Joanne Walsh Executive Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Mrs Emma James, SenCo
Governor / Trustee lead	Mrs Kathryn Bennet Acting Chair of Governors

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£18,180
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
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	£18,180

Statement of intent

At St. Cross, we live the mission statement of our school: ***'Together we grow in God's love.'***

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas, as well as socially and emotionally. 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.

Quality-first 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 in 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 is responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will continue through our Pupil Progress Meetings and individual class meetings to:

- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they are set;
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantage- pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1. Gaps in prior learning	To address gaps in prior learning, which have been identified through assessment, observation, and pupil voice and monitoring of planning and books.
2. Development of oral language skills	To develop oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among disadvantaged pupils which have been identified through assessments, observations and discussions with pupils. Underdeveloped oral language further impacts on Phonics, Reading, including Comprehension skills and the ability to use ambitious vocabulary in their writing. These are evident from Reception through to KS2 and in general, are prevalent in all our disadvantaged pupils.
3. Parental Engagement & Support and Well Being	Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified mental health and wellbeing for pupils and their families.
4. Attendance	Poor attendance continues to be addressed

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
To provide targeted support to enable all pupils with Pupil Premium, to reach the expected standard or above, and maintain expected or better progress across Reading, Writing and Maths. (1)	• Quality-First Teaching across the school, evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, monitoring of books/planning and ongoing formative assessment • Positive engagement in additional support groups. • Good parental engagement. – parent survey • Positive pupil voice, evident from meetings • Focus groups • Accurate assessments show improvements in these areas • Close tracking of all PPG pupils – half-termly pupil progress meetings; SEND drop in class observations; termly teacher meetings with SENCO
To improve oral language skills and vocabulary for pupils with relatively low levels of spoken language skills. (2)	• Positive engagement by pupil and families • Pupils meeting targets achieved. • To support those children with relatively low spoken language skills using the Neli programme • Referrals to the Speech and Language service where concerns are identified • 3 targeted language groups to provide equitable and accessible high quality targeted intervention to enrich the language and communication skills and focus on developing skills in the areas of understanding, talking, attention and listening • Academy-wide Oracy programme, Voice 21, to promote and develop good speaking and listening skills.

To have good relationships with all parents/carers, whose children are eligible for Pupil Premium. (3)	• Families are aware of their children's targets/ progress and are helped to gain the skills required to meet these targets, where appropriate- digital Provision Map supports this • Pupil voice, parent surveys, teacher observations, parent consultations, school reports • Meeting notes following review meetings with parents/carers. • CPOMs where parents/carers have been signposted.
To show that PPG attendance is in line with other significant groups within the school (4)	• Edukey system, Studybugs, captures absences more effectively by allowing parents to register pupil absence • Improvement in attendance seen after school intervention and support • Working towards attendance being in line with non-disadvantaged peers. School liaison with families not meeting threshold.
To show that PPG pupils access a wide range of physical activities, creative arts, music, technology, residential journeys and educational visits. (5)	• Working towards attendance being in line with non-disadvantaged peers. School liaison with families not meeting threshold. • PPG children attend all school and residential trips. • Parents are aware that financial consideration given, where required. • Nearly-new uniform support • Subsidised activities e.g. Music and Sports Clubs • Hoddesdon and Broxbourne Services: support with electricity and food vouchers, and Christmas gifts • Supermarket vouchers

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: £18,180

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Quality-First Teaching	The best available evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve pupil attainment. Ensuring every teacher is supported in delivering high-quality teaching is essential to achieving the best outcomes for all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged among them. EEF school-improvement-planning.	(1)
Parental Engagement / Support	Parents who attend parent workshops find them beneficial enabling them to support children at home. Parents working in sync with school staff to mirror teaching/support allows for progress. Parents working in partnership with school and signing Home School Agreement, seeing good progress in Reading. Class weekly signposts on website to support learning at home engagement EEF Education Evidence/Teaching & Learning toolkit	(3)
Provision of effective CPD to all staff	Maths Mastery Literacy- focus on Spelling. This includes CPD through the Hertfordshire Literacy and Maths Advisor; within staff meetings; INSET training days by core subject leaders. Phonics – training for all staff by English Advisor. Early reading CPD for staff. CPD for Middle Leaders by Schools Effectiveness Advisor; (EEF guidance reports Effective Professional Development)	(1)

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

Budgeted cost: £0

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Within class, small group and 1:1 support ion delivered in KS1 and KS2 to fill gaps in learning that have been identified.	• Evidence shows that intervention as well as quality-first teaching targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be effective in supporting low-attaining pupils or those falling behind, both 1:1 and in small groups: • A rigorous and consistent approach to phonics has been shown to have a positive impact on pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Little Wandle Phonics programme in place supports this, • Reading scheme aligned to phonics • Catch-up and keep up • Interventions. • Streaming. • Peeling-away. • Additional work provided for parents to work with children on their targets at home (pre-teaching) • Half termly discussions with parents to share targets and progress if necessary	(1) (3).
Within class, small group and 1:1 support to improve listening, narrative and vocabulary skills, for pupils with relatively low spoken language skills, using Neli and targeted speech and language intervention	• Oral language interventions have a positive impact on pupil's language skills. Focus on speaking and listening show positive impacts on attainment • Intervention folders show targets and how children are progressing. • Monitoring of Neli and targeted language programme to support progress, to show where targets have been met, and where appropriate new targets have been set. • Academy-wide Oracy programme, Voice 21, to promote and develop good speaking and listening skills.	(2)

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

Budgeted cost: £5,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To review our aims and current approaches with regard to parental engagement.	• Our parents play a crucial role in supporting their child's learning; levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with better academic outcomes. • Evidence; Parent Forums, weekly Newsletter, review meetings, proactive meetings led by teachers if concerns • Home-school learning parent partnership (half-termly)	3
To work with parents to improve attendance	• Follow the Attendance Policy procedures • Studybugs digital system for parents to report absence • Achieve sustained improved attendance by disadvantaged pupils, closing the gap between this group and non-disadvantaged peers.	(4)
To maintain a Contingency Fund for providing financial support for disadvantaged pupils and other acute issues that may arise.	• Wellbeing of disadvantaged pupils has supported through equitable access to opportunities, resources etc. as their peers. • Experience demonstrates the need for a portion of unallocated funds to enable the school to respond quickly to unforeseen needs for additional support.	(3)
Provides music tuition and extracurricular clubs	• Rocksteady weekly music tuition • Extracurricular clubs like Computer Club, Forest School and Breakfast Club	(3)

Nearly new uniform shop for families (of PPG and other vulnerable children) to significantly reduce costs.	Regularly available throughout the year	(3)
School lunches	Free school meals: assisting parents to know whether they are entitled to claim free school meals and to provide guidance completing forms.	(3)

Total budgeted cost: £18,180

Part B: Review of outcomes in previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes – this details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2025-26 academic year

We have looked at the Pupil Premium across the school and used personal strengths and areas for development to plan new objectives to ensure that there are no disadvantages between them and their peers.

Whole-school strategies:

- Lesson observations identified quality-first teaching and provision for targeted group
- Lesson observations identified effective use of TA support
- Embedded reading assessment in place- clear identification to allow for quicker progression and more precise steps for pupils
- Phonics scheme- Little Wandle- embedding and consolidation of knowledge
- Parent information workshops- phonics, maths, writing, comprehension, reading
- Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural curriculum to cover calendar of events through special weekly assemblies
- Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity CPD training for teachers to support cultural links are planned for and all children see themselves represented (also evident in class Curriculum Overviews)
- Targeted speech and language interventions using Neli.
- Targeted support for emotional regulation and anxiety, small group and class sessions to support social relationships, Y7 transition, anxiety mapping
- Nurture group
- Time to Talk- opportunity to have daily chat with an adult for emotional support
- Protective behaviours training sessions led by Hoddesdon and Broxbourne Services (HABS) to support emotional regulation
- Support from Middleton Outreach to advise on strategies in class to enhance learning
- Development of independent learning strategies and growth mindset

DATA

July SATS for Y6- 4 pupils- 2 achieved greater depth, 2 achieved expected level

July End of Foundation Stage Teacher Assessments- reflected that pupil premium pupils met the Early Learning Goals – 2 pupils- only 1 achieved ELG

July End of KS1 Teacher Assessments- All made good progress from their starting points - **reflected** that most were working within age related expectations in Science and most working at or towards Age Related Expectations in reading, writing and Maths. Two children did not pass the phonics check in Yr 1.

Increased engagement with learning – evident from discussions with pupil and pupil interactions during feedback and marking

Increased self-esteem and ability to work as part of a team – evident from conversations with pupils and pupil survey