2025-26 v1

St Paul's Catholic School 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	St Paul's Catholic School
Number of pupils in school	1135 (936 in Yrs 7-11)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	19.5% (182 students)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers **(3 year plans are recommended)**	2024-27
Date this statement was published	August 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	August 2026
Statement authorised by	S Conaghan
Pupil premium lead	L Boyle
Governor / Trustee lead	D Macdonald

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£194,203 (Full Year) £114,129 (Sep – Mar, 7/12's)
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	N/A
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	N/A

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

All members of staff and the governing body accept responsibility for 'socially disadvantaged' pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within a caring and nurturing environment. We hope that each child will develop a love for learning and acquire skills and abilities commensurate with fulfilling their potential and as an adult finding employment.

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

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	27% of the cohort disadvantaged students (compared with 9% of the cohort of non-disadvantaged students) are below their expected reading age, this impacts on students' extended writing ability, comprehension of complex texts, access to the content within lessons and oracy and their ability to articulate their learning plans; ultimately leading to lower attainment across a suite of subjects.
2	Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, such as anxiety, depression (diagnosed by medical professionals) and low self-esteem. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment. Teacher referrals for support remain high. 58 pupils (38 of whom are disadvantaged) currently require additional support with social and emotional needs. Analysis of 'low level' behaviour sanctions (on average PP students are issued twice as many low level behaviour sanctions) demonstrate that students can lack the self-regulation strategies in the classroom to access and manage their learning effectively. 80% of low level behaviour incidents recorded are in year 7,8,9 (year 8 has highest individual percentage.)

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3	Our attendance data over the last 3 years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 5-6% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. 39.4% (Nat. 40.9%) of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to 12.4% (17.6.0% Nat.) of their peers during that period. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.
4	The cultural capital of many students is low (data obtained from year 7 on entry shows this), and they are not exposed to enough opportunities to widen their horizons and tap into gifts and talents.
5	In line with national data, some PP students do not progress onto Level 4 study in line with non-disadvantaged students' data. 75 % of DA students moved onto L4 compared to 77 % of their non-DA peers.
6	At St Paul's we understand the important of developing strong study habits and homework is an integral part of this. Our less advantaged students are more likely to need support in developing these study habits, and we use several platforms that are easily accessible and to use. This is to work on the statistic that although only 15.3 % of our cohort last year was PP 32% of homework detentions were awarded to DA students. Consequently, we have invested in SatchelOne to allow students to effectively monitor their homework and GCSEpod which is a platform which supports homework and allows students to develop those crucial study skills.
7	Disadvantaged families have greater economic challenges, therefore we have assigned an amount of money that can be used at their discretion. Additionally, this discretionary fund is used for school trips and other forms of enrichment that students would otherwise miss out on if they did not have this fund to fall back on. The 2024/2025 overall spend on this was £11,522 across all year groups showing a significant need for this level of support. An additional amount of money is assigned for students at KS4 and 5 to buy them revision materials, should money be a barrier to them accessing these.
8	Although DA students are making better progress than in previous years, they are still behind their non-DA peers in both English and maths, so targeted interventions in these subjects need to be maintained in the next academic year. **2023 GCSE English** All –0.3 DA –0.7 **2024** , All 0.2 DA -0.3 **2025** 4.8 DA 5.8 all **2023 GCSE maths** All -0.3 DA –0.9 **2024** All 0.3 DA –0.2 **2025 –** 3.6 **DA All** 5.1

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.

<table>
<tr><th>Intended outcome</th><th>Success criteria</th></tr>
<tr><td>For all students to be adept readers and writers; able to articulate their learning and reading broadly and widely to enrich their curriculum experience, measured through student voice, analysis of assessment data, learning walks and improved overall attainment at each Key Stage</td><td>
Improved attainment measured through end of year tests/GCSE results.
<table>
<tr><td>2023 GCSE English</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>All –0.3</td><td>DA –0.7</td></tr>
<tr><td>2024</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>All 0.2</td><td>-0.3</td></tr>
</table>
Improved progress 8 scores
<table>
<tr><td>2023 P8</td><td>A8</td></tr>
<tr><td>All 0.2</td><td>4.9</td></tr>
<tr><td>DA –0.8</td><td>4.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>2024 P8</td><td>A8</td></tr>
<tr><td>All 0.3</td><td>5.0</td></tr>
<tr><td>DA -0.1</td><td>4.7</td></tr>
<tr><td>2025 no P8</td><td>A8</td></tr>
<tr><td>All</td><td>5.4</td></tr>
<tr><td>DA</td><td>4.2</td></tr>
</table>
Student voice to show that students are confident and competent in knowing how to improve their learning through an understanding of their ‘next steps’
Interventions used effectively
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Consistent application of behaviour for learning approaches improving students’ experience; analysis of behaviour sanctions (detentions/isolations and exclusions) analysis of the use of pastoral support programs and alternative provision for disadvantaged students.</td><td>
Decrease in detentions/isolations and exclusions data.
<table>
<tr><td>24-25</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>DA</td><td>Non-DA</td></tr>
<tr><td>31%</td><td>69%</td></tr>
<tr><td>23-24</td><td>Exclusions data</td></tr>
<tr><td>DA</td><td>Non-DA</td></tr>
<tr><td>48.4 % (53/109.5)</td><td>51.6 % (56.5/109.5)</td></tr>
<tr><td>22-23</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>DA</td><td>Non-DA</td></tr>
<tr><td>57.3 % (82/143)</td><td>42.7 % (63/143)</td></tr>
</table>
DA students had been twice as likely for receive a detention as their non-DA peers and we have worked to reduce this through early intervention and support.
</td></tr>
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	• Students demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning in student voice (data obtained in Dept Review Exercise) • Increased use of homework club by disadvantaged students at KS3 . • Pastoral support manager is currently working with several students who fall below the threshold for working with either of our mental health leads. The intention of this is to put in place early intervention so that students' issues do not escalate to the point where they require more intensive intervention. This is being trialled to see how effective this is as a strategy.
Persistent absenteeism rates decrease amongst disadvantaged students measured through weekly, monthly, and termly attendance data.	• Termly tracking of PA students and the evaluation of effectiveness of actions/interventions. Data is generated weekly by VBA to send to HoY to discuss with SLT line manager.
An increase in disadvantaged students accessing level 4 courses to improve life chances and increase social mobility	• Using intended destinations data collated over time • Use of Connexions to expose disadvantaged students to opportunities on level 4 courses and/or training. • QA – student voice, learning walks, careers week evaluation, compass evaluation.
Disadvantaged students to be given the opportunity to learn an instrument	• 100% uptake of peripatetic lessons in current Year 7 rolling into other years
Students are supported in boosting their mental health by the support of our mental health workers and consequently their attendance and attainment improve.	• Attendance to school and lessons improves • Attainment improves • Students develop self-regulation skills and can support themselves using the strategies that they have been taught.
Students are supported to complete homework which consolidates their learning in class	• Those students who require support are invited to attend homework club. • Attendance is regular and sustained • Detentions for homework decrease for those students who attend homework club.

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 (Sep 25 to Mar 26): £24,877

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Students are able to confidently articulate what they 'know, understand and can do' as a result of ambitious teaching	QA during 2024-25 showed a greater level of retrieval practice as curriculum plans were refined and carefully sequenced but this is still not fully embedded. Focus for school SIP.	1
A program of CPD on teaching strategies that develop effectiveness and efficiency of learning in all classrooms.	The quality of classroom teaching is the most vital strategy in improving outcomes for DA students. EEF Pupil Premium Guide, The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | Education Endowment Foundation	1
Development of excellent classroom practice for individuals by implementation of a structured program of Instructional Coaching for teachers at all careers stages.	In terms of impact on student outcomes, instructional coaching has one of the strongest evidence bases of any form of CPD, Four reasons instructional coaching is currently the best-evidenced form of CPD – Sam Sims Quantitative Education Research	1
To develop meta-cognitive skills to engage with unfamiliar vocabulary	Primary schools report a gap in extended writing, QA shows students are unable to articulate their next steps in learning.	1
Sparx maths To develop better study skills to support progress in maths through the introduction of	Sparx Maths - Impact	

(**£1400** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £2,400		
Developing more effective literacy skills for all through Form time reading (with CPD for staff) **Fresh Start** phonics programme for our weakest readers (**£817** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £1,400 Using **Sparx Reader** to maintain positive reading habits across KS3 (**£2,333** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £4,000 Reading across the curriculum (with CPD for staff)	At St Paul's we recognise that fluency in reading is an essential skill for students to have to enable them to produce excellent outcomes. Consequently, we have a comprehensive program of strategies around literacy and reading. These strategies are evidence-based on the articles below. Why focus on reading fluency? | EEF 2. About Fresh Start - secondary schools - Ruth Miskin Literacy Sparx Reader - Home EEF Blog: What do we mean by 'disciplinary literacy'? | EEF EEF_KS3_KS4_LITERACY_POSTER.pdf	1
Literacy Lead TLR (**£2,827** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £4,846	QA and data showed this approach increased student engagement and attainment 2022-23 School staff tuition was more successful than online programmes.	1
Alternative Provision Top Up (part funded, 55k from ALP Cost Centre) Bespoke strategies to support alternate provision funding secured to ensure a range of pathways are accessed for PP learners. A greater range of pathways are explored such as apprenticeship access and careers support	A small percentage of disadvantaged learners complete Key Stage 4 with significantly lower attainment outcomes than non-disadvantaged learners. Alternate provision fulfils a route to enable these learners to pursue appropriate courses providing a bespoke curriculum. Adapted curriculum for those students who cannot cope with the standard pathway at GCSE. Salary contribution for the FP teacher who leads and delivers the programme for 15 students.	5

(**£5,833** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £10,000		
Future Pathways Curriculum To ensure that students are offered a rich and challenging curriculum suited to need. Future Pathways (**£11,667** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £20,000	0% Neets amongst all students. Future Pathways cohort are particularly vulnerable post covid.	5
Bespoke strategies and interventions to support PP student who are also EAL	37% of PP students are also EAL. EAL coordinator to lead interventions.	1

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

Budgeted cost (Sep 25 to Mar 26): £60,068

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
School Counsellor and Mental Health worker (**£39,661** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £67,990	A range of complex needs are identified as barriers to learning and self-actualisation	2,3
CIAG external Level 6 meetings, Y11 (**£3,196** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £5,478	PP students are much more 'likely to become NEETs' in Post 16 education**. (House of Commons paper: 28th August 2018)**	5
Online learning resources for students and subjects (**£10,389** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £17,809	Access to suitable online resources directly contributes to increased attainment. Satchel One, GCSEPod (Access Group), ExamPro, National College (Prof Dev), Schoolcloud (TES), TenTen,	1,5
Homework Club salary contribution (**£4,489** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £7,695	To enable access to targeted support after school. PP students are less likely to be supported or have access to resources at home.	1,5
KS3 AP Outdoor curriculum (NOLA Group) (**£583** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £1000	To support some of our most vulnerable students with targeted inventions.	1,5
Easter School Year 11 (**£1750** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £3000	A successful strategy from 2023-25. With targeted support and teaching leading up to the examination period	1,5

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

Budgeted cost (Sep 25 to Mar 26): £36,398

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
School budget to top up **FSM + Breakfast Club** (**£11,667** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £20,000	Lower attendance rates for PP students caused by illness and lower immunity	1,2
20% salary contribution VB Allocation of funding to include a dedicated Attendance Officer who will focus on reducing Persistent absenteeism (**£3,992** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £6,844	In 2023-24 40% of PP students had attendance below 90% compared with Non PP students of which only 20% were below 90%.	3
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. To support students with engagement in valuable extra-curricular activities (**£875** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £1,500	School engagement is very strong and successful with 84 students participating in the Bronze award. PP students are keen to progress to Silver or engage with Bronze award	4
School Productions To support students participate in whole school cultural capital activities (**£1,400** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £2,400	Student voice demonstrates a desire to participate if barriers to attending are removed. Increased cultural capital amongst PP students	4
Y10 Work Experience All students to have a rich and varied experience for work experience.	Student voice from 2023-24 demonstrates a strong engagement from PP students with 95% of students attributing World of Work week as a direct influencer in career	4,5

(**£583** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £1,000	decisions and aspirations used for Post 16 applications.	
PP Choice Spending (**£6,808** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £11,670	Student Voice shows that students do not have access to resources or are able to participate in extra-curricular activities and trips equitably with non-PP students. High levels of sanctions issued for incorrect uniform/equipment	4,5
Peripatetic music lessons available to students (**£3,645** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £6,249	Learning a musical instrument is a well proven approach to both engaging students in school, improving attendance and giving students the opportunity to be ambitious for themselves	4
35% Pastoral Support salary contribution TH Identified students appropriately referred to Pastoral support for a range of internal and external services and interventions (**£7,428** for Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's) Full Year = £12,734	A range of complex needs are identified as barriers to learning and developing good learning habits.	

Budgeted cost all strands (Sep 25 to Mar 26 – 7/12's): £121,343
7k over spend to date Nov 2025 14k for the year

Total cost, all strands, full year: £208,015

B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

KS4 outcomes

Of the 182 students who were entered for GCSEs at the end of year 11 at St Paul's Catholic School in summer 2024, 33 (18.1%) were disadvantaged, a similar size cohort to last year (19.6%)

The Progress 8 score for disadvantaged students in 2024 was -0.21, compared with

+0.50 for not-disadvantaged students (+0.30 for all students). The results continue with a three year upward trend.

2025 data has no progress 8 score as the year group did not SATs due to Covid.

The Attainment 8 score (A8) for disadvantaged students was 43.2, compared with 53.0 for not-disadvantaged in 2024. The results continue with a three year upward trend.

In 2025 A8 was 42.5 which showed a slight decrease from the previous year.

The number of students achieving **5 grade 5 GCSE's including English and Maths** was up to 40% up from 25% in 2024. This increased to 35.5% in 2025.

The number of students achieving **5 grade 4 GCSE's including English and Maths** was up to 63% up from 53% in 2024. This increased to 61.3% in 2025.

Source:

Key stage 4 performance, Academic year 2022/23 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Attendance

Attendance is reported by FFT Aspire for FSM6 (those who have received school meals

in the last 6 years). Last year this was 88.5% which is significantly higher than national for PP. (3.1% higher) and is significantly higher than national in all year groups.

There are a small number of PP families where there is persistent absence. The Assistant Principal and the Pastoral Teams work with any relevant external agencies to target PP students with Persistent Absence and are working with families to ensure attendance is a priority.

Externally provided programmes (None Purchased)

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

Service pupil premium funding (N/A)

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	N/A
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	N/A

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your pupil premium strategy. For example, about your strategy planning, or other activity that you are implementing to support disadvantaged pupils, that is not dependent on pupil premium or recovery premium fundi