

St John's Special School and College

St John's Special School and College: Pupil Premium Statement 16 17

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is funding provided to schools which is additional to main school funding. It is allocated according to the number of pupils on-roll who are/have been eligible for free school meals (FSM), are Post- LAC and an allocation for each pupil who is currently 'Looked After' (in care) for 6 months or more. In 2012, funding was extended to include pupils who have been eligible for free school meals within the past 6 years.

Why was it introduced?

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

The Pupil Premium is allocated to schools per FSM pupil and is clearly identifiable. It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for pupils.

Pupil Premium funding contributes to the cost of support programmes designed to support vulnerable pupils and pupils not on track. Schools are held accountable for how they have used the additional funding and must publish online information about how they have used the Premium.

Principles

We monitor the performance of all of our pupils. The school identifies intervention strategies for all pupils who are not making sufficient progress. This is then recorded and regularly reviewed and amended according to pupil needs.

The strategies identified for raising the achievement of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium are, with a few exceptions, available to support all pupils who are not on track, or who need support to access learning successfully. The intervention is provided in response to need.

Our Philosophy

We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all pupils. Every child matters and no child is invisible.

We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils that belong to vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed.

We recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for Free School Meals. The Governors reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as needing additional support to improve outcomes in learning and/or well-being. Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority groups or individuals.

The Local Advisory Board is consulted regarding the proposed spending of the Pupil Premium and agree the programmes, activities and initiatives to be implemented to support the pupils.

The Finance Trust Board Committee specifically monitors and reports on Pupil Premium spending and the impact it is having on pupil in terms of their progress and attainment as well as other aspects of provision to support their learning including developing pupil aspiration, self confidence, communication skills etc.

It is important to note that other funding is also allocated from the school budget to support these activities.