

Pupil premium strategy statement – Beacon Hill Community School

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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	138
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	33.3% (as at December 2024)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers:	2024-25 to 2027-28
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	April 2025
Statement authorised by	Tom Hailwood
Pupil premium lead	Jennifer Rowlands
Governor / Trustee lead	David Davidson

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£45675
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£45675

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all of our students achieve well, regardless of their advantage or disadvantage, regardless of background and home circumstances, regardless of starting point, ability or aptitude. That students feel belonging within our school community and are valued within it.

Beacon is a small rural school. In the local area employment rates are relatively good however the type of employment is often poorly paid which means that while we have a relatively high proportion of students who access FSM there is a wider pool of students that have close to being defined as PP. A high proportion of students are recognised to have had 4+ ACEs. Given this context, students often don't have access to models of aspiration from their parents or wider adults in their lives. Given the rurality and isolation of the school, students access to enriching activities and a wider range of cultural experiences are lower. The community is small, and students have a smaller field of friends to choose from, while friendships are often strong and long lasting the range of relationship options for students is limited, as is access to wider services including Educational Psychologists, CAMHS and high-quality AP.

From our historical data and current analysis of our students, we have identified literacy as one of our key challenges, and therefore our key building blocks to enable students to access better outcomes for themselves. Together with a focus on addressing barriers to learning, we feel this primary focus will enable us to streamline our approaches to make a real, lasting difference to our students' lives. In line with EEF research, high quality, quality first teaching, and an explicit focus on literacy, will provide the building blocks to support high attainment. The school's size and location provide additional challenges where we recognise the importance for our students to actively participate in the range of expectance on offer at school and engage in enriching actives.

Our approaches will not only focus on the disadvantaged, but because of the relative proportion of disadvantaged students will provide whole-school initiatives to improve outcomes for everyone, raising the bar and expecting more from all our students, many of whom while not categorised as PP are close to disadvantage. In this way, a tide of improvement will bring all students with it, enabling them to challenge and support each other to achieve more. Non-disadvantaged attainment will be sustained and improved alongside that of their disadvantaged peers.

We will ensure that we take a holistic view, addressing issues and gaps as well as tailoring to the individual child. Our small size enables us to know our students well and provide tailored support to them, to ensure they are in the best possible position to learn and learn well. We

will work equally hard for high attainers, ensuring they continue to achieve and thrive, as we do for those who struggle the most.

Our strategy will also link to our school improvement plan, with particular focus on those most disadvantaged in our school population, whether they are in receipt of Pupil Premium or not.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Quality First Teaching</p> <p>Leaders and teachers need to be confident in their assessment of academic progress, so they can improve their knowledge of learner's progress and adapt the curriculum for their needs. Teachers need to improve how they adapt the curriculum to meet needs of the most able students. We need to support the progress of students with SEND need, and in particular SEMH and those who are not in receipt of an EHCP but who are on our SEN register.</p>
2	<p>Literacy</p> <p>Reading ages of our students are sometimes below their real age. Assessments show that in all year groups a relatively large proportion of our students have a reading age which is below their actual age. From recent evidence, this gap appears to widen during their time at our school.</p>
3	<p>In lessons learning (pastoral input)</p> <p>In previous years, pastoral support has sometimes focused on resolving issues rather than going the step further onto removing barriers to support effective learning. We need to continue to improve our support of students having experienced trauma and experiencing other barriers to learning effectively in the classroom.</p>
4	<p>Participation, Enrichment and Cultural Capital</p> <p>Disadvantaged students attend school less often than non-PP students. We want to ensure that the participation of students with PP in all school events is at least equal to the proportion of PP students in school. To provide an outward-facing curriculum and curriculum experiences that support the personal development and character of all students in school.</p>

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
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<p>Improved attainment by disadvantaged group of students across the curriculum at the end of KS4</p>	<p>By the end of our current plan 2027-28, disadvantaged students will have consistently achieved as well as non-disadvantaged students in our school and that both groups are achieving well compared to national cohorts. In each academic year, our success criteria will be that outcomes demonstrate that disadvantaged students (and non-disadvantaged students too) achieve an attainment 8 score of 0 or greater.</p> <p>As well as improved outcomes for disadvantaged students, the quality of assessments at KDPs will improve teachers understanding of progress made and provides opportunities for teacher to adapt the curriculum. Teachers will be able to discuss their understanding with confidence. The scaffolding in place for students of the highest ability to make rapid progress will be more consistently in place.</p> <p>This will be observed through the schools monitoring schedule as well and KDPs.</p>
<p>Improved literacy scores across all year groups</p>	<p>Reading assessment scores demonstrate improved reading ages compared to actual age for disadvantaged students.</p> <p>Literacy interventions are clearly linked to carefully identified gaps in learning, are being addressed comprehensively and consistently, and are making a difference.</p> <p>School monitoring identifies improvement in key focused aspects of the EEF 'Improving literacy in Education'.</p>
<p>In lessons learning</p>	<p>More students are in school and in lessons more regularly, and are better able to deal with the rigour of classroom life.</p> <p>Pastoral support is focused not only on resolving issues but also on supporting in-lesson progress and achievement by proactively focusing on being in and engaging with lessons, learning actively and participating fully in all aspects of their education.</p>
<p>Improved participation and engagement with learning opportunities</p>	<p>Disadvantaged students' uptake in enrichment activities is in at least proportion to their proportion in the school.</p> <p>Barriers to uptake are successfully identified and systematically broken, in effective and resource efficient ways.</p>

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £20,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Implementation of Literacy Improvement strategies	EEF research clearly shows that a focus on literacy is key in secondary schools. The EEF Guidance Report ‘Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools’ outlines the interventions that are recommended. Our approach incorporates implementing many of the elements of the guidance report.	1, 2
<p>Our literacy improvement strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary literacy – improving the way we teach and use literacy in our curriculum • Clear roadmaps and long term plans robustly communicated and utilised with students for each subject, including clarity on key vocabulary required • Topic overviews used to inform day to day teaching of vocabulary (tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary) • A clear and developing understanding and implementation of what effective reading, writing and talk looks like in subjects • Continuation of Word of the Week to embed root words and etymology of commonly used words • See also our School Improvement Plan for further details of how we are moving literacy forward; this is applicable to disadvantaged as well as non-disadvantaged students. 		
Quality First Teaching	<p>Quality First Teaching must include appropriate responses and adaptations to teaching as needed by students but without unnecessarily elaborate or individualised approaches. Our approach focuses on high prior attaining students, but will also benefit all.</p> <p>Our SIP also includes initiatives to prioritise quality first teaching including checking understanding, identifying and identifying and resolving misconceptions.</p> <p>This year we will turn our attention to ensuring pastoral staff can support successful learning through appropriate parts of the Five A Day EEF Report.</p>	1, 2, 3
<p>Our approach to improving quality first teaching includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using data to identify specific subject areas and trends where HPA (and others) are underachieving. • Targeting support strategies to specific students 		

- Providing professional development for teachers to adapt teaching methods
- Considering curriculum reviews and modification
- Rigorous quality assurance
- Review of assessment practices, particularly to ensure HPA students are challenged appropriately
- Review 5 a day and identify where pastoral staff can support learning
- See also our School Improvement Plan for further details of how we are moving quality-first-teaching forward; this is applicable to disadvantaged as well as non-disadvantaged students.

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

Budgeted cost: £10,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Focused support on improving literacy by specific interventions and in-lesson teaching.	EEF research clearly shows that a focus on literacy is key in secondary schools. The EEF Guidance Report ' Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools ' outlines the interventions that are recommended. Our approach incorporates implementing many of the elements of the guidance report.	1, 2
<p>In order to improve literacy for those students that need additional support and interventions we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use assessments to inform student need • Deliver interventions to fill gaps and improve literacy, reading, phonics etc • Manage and monitor testing regularly and robustly in order to gauge progress and identify further gaps • Implement complimentary classroom strategies to support development of individual students • Ensure staff are fully trained to deliver effective interventions, progress is tracked and robust evaluations are carried out of both delivery and outcomes of interventions. • See also our School Improvement Plan for further details of how we are moving literacy interventions forward; this is applicable to disadvantaged as well as non-disadvantaged students. 		

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

Budgeted cost: £18,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Pastoral support focusing on attendance, behaviour for learning and	Children need to be in school to engage with learning. We therefore focus a lot of effort on supporting students to get into, and stay	3

engagement with learning as a priority	in, school. In addition to this, we also focus on improving learning behaviours in school. EEF research supports focusing on improving learning behaviours as well as managing misbehaviour . A focus on pastoral support that enables good learning to happen successfully is key to supporting good attainment.	
<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue our proactive engagement with agencies to support SEMH issues. Using funding to support Always Another Way (AAW), Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) on programmes focusing on Ways to Wellbeing • Continue to develop and deliver strategies to ensure PP students attend in line with national • Further implement ELSA for those students requiring support • Develop opportunities to make sure pastoral staff are able to make links with curriculum staff to ensure that any interventions are outcome-focused in terms of good learning in lessons in addition to supporting students wellbeing and attendance. This year is about identifying actions and opportunities to firm up a plan for the following years. 		
Improved participation and engagement with learning opportunities	We will ensure that students who are disadvantaged have the same opportunity to take part in enrichment and capital-developing activities and interventions as non-disadvantaged students. We will do this through carefully monitoring uptake and take-up of clubs, activities, trips, visits and other events, and proactively encourage attendance and uptake through minimising barriers of cost, travel and other issues faced by our students.	4
<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and encourage disadvantaged students' uptake in enrichment activities is in at least proportion to their proportion in the school. • Barriers to uptake are successfully identified and systematically broken, in effective and resource efficient ways. 		

Total budgeted cost: £48,000

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

Outline the performance of your disadvantaged pupils in the previous academic year and explain how it has been assessed. You should draw on:

- *Data from the previous academic year's national assessments and qualifications, once published.*
- *Comparison to local and national averages and outcomes achieved by your school's non-disadvantaged pupils (a note of caution can be added to signal that pupils included in the performance data will have experienced some disruption due to Covid-19 earlier in their schooling, which will have affected individual pupils and schools differently).*
- *Information from summative and formative assessments the school has undertaken.*
- *School data and observations used to assess wider issues impacting disadvantaged pupils' performance, including attendance, behaviour and wellbeing*

You should state whether you are on target to achieve the outcomes of your strategy (as outlined in the Intended Outcomes section above) and outline your analysis of what aspects of your strategy are/are not working well.

If last year marked the end of a previous pupil premium strategy plan, you should set out your assessment of how successfully the intended outcomes of that plan were met.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you used your pupil premium to fund in the previous academic year.

Programme	Provider

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

*For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information: **How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year***

The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your pupil premium strategy. For example, about your strategy planning, implementation and evaluation, or other activity that you are delivering to support disadvantaged pupils that is not dependent on pupil premium funding.