



St Thomas of Canterbury's Pupil Premium Strategy 2025-2028

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	194
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	18
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement each academic year)	2025 - 2028
Date this statement was published	November 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	November 2026
Statement authorised by	EHT
Pupil premium lead	Maggie Sanderson
Governor / Trustee lead	Alex Pettitt

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£48,300
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>	£48,300

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

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. 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.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

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. 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 will be 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:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified

adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged 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	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident from Reception through to KS2 and in general, are more prevalent among our disadvantaged pupils than their peers. Work already completed in this area has shown a start in improvement through the adoption of the Phonics scheme. However

	there remains a need for oracy to have a continued emphasis within the curriculum experienced by the children.
2	<p>Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with reading than their peers.</p> <p>In Year 1 75% of our disadvantaged pupils are working below age-related expectations compared to 65% other pupils. This gap narrows but remains significant to the end of KS1.</p>
3	<p>Internal and external assessments indicate that maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>On entry to Yr 1 class in 25% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 53% of other pupils. This gap remains steady to the end of KS1.</p>
4	<p>Our assessments (including wellbeing survey), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for many pupils, notably a lack of enrichment opportunities and the opportunities to explore beyond the local areas. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment.</p> <p>Teacher referrals for support remain relatively high. 20 pupils (10 of whom are disadvantaged) currently require additional support with social and emotional needs, with 15 (7 of whom are disadvantaged) receiving small group interventions.</p>
5	<p>Our attendance data this year indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 83.02% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils 92.78%.</p> <p>15 of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to 22 of their peers during that period. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.</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
Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.

Improved reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2025/26 show that more than 50% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	KS2 maths outcomes in 2025/26 show that more than 50% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high levels of wellbeing by 2027/28 demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations • a significant reduction in bullying a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils.

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: £ 20,100

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Embedding dialogic activities across the school curriculum. These can support pupils to articulate key ideas, consolidate understanding and extend vocabulary. We will purchase resources and fund ongoing teacher training and release time.	There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are inexpensive to implement with high impacts on reading: Oral language interventions Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF	1

<p>Enhancement of our maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance.</p> <p>We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in school and to access Maths Hub resources and CPD (including Teaching for Mastery training).</p>	<p>The DfE non-statutory guidance has been produced in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, drawing on evidence-based approaches:</p> <p>Mathematics guidance: key stages 1 and 2</p> <p>The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence:</p> <p>Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3</p>	3
<p>Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments.</p> <p>Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly.</p>	<p>When used effectively, diagnostic assessments can indicate areas for development for individual pupils, or across classes and year groups:</p> <p>Diagnostic assessment EEF</p>	1, 2, 3,
<p>Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning.</p> <p>SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.</p>	<p>There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers):</p> <p>Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools EEF</p>	4

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

Budgeted cost: £ 24,400

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>One to one and small group tuition for pupils in need of additional support, delivered in</p>	<p>Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind:</p>	1, 2, 3

<p>addition to, and linked with, normal lessons.</p> <p>Tutoring will be implemented with the help of DfE's guide:</p> <p>Tutoring: guidance for education settings</p>	<p>One to one tuition Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF</p> <p>Small group tuition Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF</p>	
<p>Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support. This will be delivered in collaboration with our local English hub.</p>	<p>Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks:</p> <p>Phonics Teaching and Learning Toolkit EEF</p>	2

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

Budgeted cost: £ 8,300

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's guidance on working together to improve school attendance.</p> <p>This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures and appointing attendance/support officers to improve attendance.</p>	<p>The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.</p>	5
<p>Contingency fund for acute issues.</p>	<p>Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond</p>	All

	quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	
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Total budgeted cost: £ 48,300

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.