



St. Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. It is allocated to children from low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for free School Meals (FSM), Looked after Children, children adopted from care and Service Forces children. It also includes pupils who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years (known as the Ever 6 FSM measure).

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.

This is a three-year pupil premium strategy.



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	386 (including 28 in Nursery)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	24.3% (FS2-Y6)
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)	2023-2026 (Year 2)
Date this statement was published	Updated December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2025
Statement authorised by	Amanda Greaves
Pupil premium lead	Gill Novak-Lemmings
Governor / Trustee lead	Emma Farmer

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£133,150
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year <i>Recovery premium received in academic year 2023/24 cannot be carried forward beyond August 31, 2024.</i>	£0
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (<i>enter £0 if not applicable</i>)	£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>	£133,150

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Mission Statement

‘By working together at St Mary’s School, we aim, through Jesus Christ, to share God’s love, helping our community to learn, grow and make a difference.’

At St. Mary’s Catholic Voluntary Academy, we have high aspirations and ambitions for all our children and we believe that all pupils should be able to reach their full potential. We ensure all our pupils have the necessary skills and values not only to succeed but to flourish.

Our pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Funding face specific barriers to reaching their full potential, and, at St. Mary’s, we are determined to provide the support and guidance they need to help them overcome these barriers using current research, for example the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). In addition to this, we aim to provide them with access to a variety of exciting opportunities and a rich and varied curriculum.

Trust Objective: Strategic Aim 1: Providing high quality Catholic education for all. Priority 1.4 – Maintain a relentless focus on the most vulnerable

School’s Objective: To maintain the impact seen over recent years regarding attendance (inclu PA) and to raise the profile on how pupils regard themselves as a learner.

Areas to improve from OFSTED report 18.01.23:

The curriculum is expertly planned. In a few subjects, this expert planning is not suitably adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. This means that some pupils do not acquire the knowledge and skills that they could. Leaders must make sure that the curriculum across all subjects is implemented securely and consistently to meet the needs of all learners.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Early communication and language.</p> <p>Nursery and Reception baseline assessments highlight low levels of C&L and PSED are demonstrated in pupils eligible for PP. This prevents sustained achievement in FS2 by slowing their reading and phonic progress. Pupils in KS1 and KS2 struggle to use standard English in their spoken form and does not translate into their written form in English</p>
2	<p>Low Cultural Capital and exposure to 'rich and ambitious' vocabulary.</p> <p>Poor vocabulary knowledge and use, and deprivation of cultural capital, can have an impact on attainment including pupils having poor spelling knowledge. There is currently a word gap between disadvantaged children and their peers when they start school. Some of our disadvantaged children, in comparison to peers, do not receive regular exposure to ambitious vocabulary, both in their everyday interactions within families and their community or through their choice of reading. As a result, some have not developed familiarity with rich language choices and do not incorporate a range of writing styles in their written work, specifically attainment at the Higher Standard in writing</p>
3	<p>Maths retention of key knowledge and reasoning skills.</p> <p>Data shows pupils achieving GD in maths is not in line with other subjects such as Reading, Writing & SPaG. Both retention and recall of key knowledge and confidence in reasoning and problem solving within mathematics are specific barriers to overcome in order for our boys and middle attainers to make expected or accelerated progress within maths across KS1 and KS2.</p>
4	<p>Metacognition skills of disadvantaged children</p> <p>Pupils, due to cognitive overload, struggle to retain knowledge over the curriculum, particularly spellings, and it is not fully embedded into long term memory.</p>
5	<p>Low parental engagement</p> <p>The catchment area of the school is widespread over the whole of Derby. Many of our parents and carers who would like to support their children with education face many language challenges themselves. In a lot of the cases there is low parent/carers confidence in supporting home learning and learning behaviours at home. At least half the PP children do not engage in homework or reading at home at least 3 times a week. Several of the children are affected by their childhood experiences outside school, ranging from split families, Adverse Childhood Experiences (Neglect/ DV) and trauma. Our numbers of EAL pupils have increased. This has an impact on most subjects, but especially, English writing (including vocabulary) and Maths Reasoning.</p>
6	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Our attendance data over the last 2 years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 1 - 3% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. 23 - 24% of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to 13 - 14% 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
For our disadvantaged children entering school to have improved communication skills so that they are able to communicate effectively with both staff and peers, enabling them to build relationships and become independent learners.	<p>FS Children to acquire a rich and broad vocabulary through modelled play. For FS children to be able to communicate their own emotional needs and develop/maintain healthy relationships.</p> <p>Parental involvement from the point of entry will be improved and this will directly impact on the communication skills of our disadvantaged children.</p> <p>Teaching addresses spelling needs of the pupils. Spelling lesson observations. Vocabulary rich displays. Key vocabulary mentioned on Knowledge Organisers and referred to during lessons and homework.</p> <p>Key vocabulary is pulled out of key texts during whole class reading, ERIC activities ensure children focus on vocabulary. RAG rating occurs when key texts are introduced and children have the time to explore the meanings of unfamiliar/new vocabulary.</p> <p>Pupils apply more advanced vocabulary when speaking and when writing.</p> <p>Children are more confident in speaking in-front of their class.</p> <p>Clear personalised feedback given.</p> <p>Children are more KS1/ KS2 / Secondary ready.</p>
<p>Positive progress in Writing in KS2</p> <p>Improved girls writing, particularly for higher attaining girls in KS1</p> <p>Increased Cultural Capital.</p>	<p>Oral rehearsal approaches and handwriting focussing around spelling.</p> <p>Attitudes to reading to be pushed out to SPAG work to develop positive attitude to writing</p> <p>Curriculum design, vocabulary focus on Knowledge Organisers and displays.</p> <p>use of standard English at home,</p> <p>Phonics focus in FS/ KS1 to ensure children are ready for KS2. Phonic lessons continued throughout KS2 for those children who need it.</p> <p>Revisiting spellings and SPAG from previous year groups or earlier in the year to ensure retrieval is embedded.</p> <p>Teaching of spelling improves through more discreet lessons, setting up weekly spelling tests and using a new spelling scheme created by English Lead.</p> <p>Phoneme Sound mats shared with children and sent home.</p> <p>Teaching of writing is a whole school focus.</p> <p>Subsidising of school dinners to ensure pupils receive a hot meal</p>

For confidence in reasoning and problem solving and recall of prior knowledge in Maths to be improved so that the number of Middle Attainers achieving GD is more in line with Reading & Writing.	End of key stage formal assessment data will show an increased percentage of pupils achieving GD in Maths. Targeted interventions, relating to specific areas of need in maths, will be in place for children in the key groups whose progress is falling behind at both KS1 and KS2.
Metacognition skills of disadvantaged children improves, and more key knowledge retained.	<p>Staff meetings led by Subject leaders to share progression maps and key sticky knowledge for their subjects.</p> <p>Subject leadership time directed into SM time to ensure this is monitored regularly and concisely. Time re-directed during monitoring tasks which include lesson visits and pupil discussions.</p> <p>Focus on key knowledge and vocabulary shared with parents on Knowledge Organisers and are in books for children to refer to throughout lessons. Key vocabulary displayed.</p> <p>A wide range of retrieval activities, including retrieval cards at the beginning of every lesson, quizzes etc used to check retention of knowledge and vocabulary.</p> <p>All lessons start with recaps of previous learning that relates to the curriculum sequence of learning.</p> <p>Staff use a variety of strategies to ensure children are ready to learn.</p> <p>Staff explore metacognition strategies and trial different ones in their classrooms to ensure the children are supported in ways to help them retain more information.</p> <p>Breakfast Club to enable pupils to ready for learning</p>
For pupils under the K code who receive additional support through Individual Educational Plans (including those entitled to PP) to gain in academic confidence in Writing and Maths to equal the attainment and progress of non-SEND pupils.	<p>End of key stage formal assessment data will show a positive value-added score for SEND pupils</p> <p>Targeted interventions, relating to specific areas of need, will be in place for children in the key groups whose progress is falling behind at both KS1 and KS2.</p> <p>Weekly moderation sessions during PPA in phases ensure at least one PP/SEND to keep a constant and regular view on the appropriateness of adaptations, expectations and outcomes. This is led by Phase leaders and reported back to LT on a regular basis.</p>
For attendance rates for pupils eligible for PP to be at least in-line with National.	<p>To ensure the gap between PP and Non-PP are in line with National.</p> <p>Persistent absences will show a diminished difference. FLO working closely with parents and checking in daily with families not attending. More children receive raffle tickets giving them a greater chance of winning an Amazon voucher.</p>

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: £40,258 (On-line resources including White Rose, Purple Mash, Century, TTRS, Staff CPD, Oracy Project.)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To embed the mastery approach to maths using White Rose by using worked examples that enable pupils to analyse the use of different strategies.	EEF states that Mastery learning is a cost-effective approach, on average, but is challenging to implement effectively. Schools should plan for changes and assess whether the approach is successful within their context. Mastery learning EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	3
To giving pupils a reason to write—and someone to write for. This will support effective writing and provide opportunities for pupils to adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes. T4W continues to be delivered, supporting writing across school (includes discussion around a text which allows ALL learners to become more confident in both reading and writing).	EEF Improving Literacy in KS2 shows strong evidence that writing can be thought of as a process made up of five components: — planning; — drafting; — revising; — editing; and — publishing. To support learners in their self-efficacy as writers and aspire to higher Greater Depth attainment, there is evidence around supporting learners with focusing on the writing process. (Recommendation 4)	1 & 3
To promote high quality dialogue in the classroom, between the teacher and the pupils and between pupils, to support pupils to develop their thinking and use of language	EEF - Oral language interventions refer to approaches that emphasise the importance of spoken language and verbal interaction in the classroom. Oral language interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1

To support staff in modelling their own thinking to help pupils develop their meta-cognitive and cognitive skills.	<p>Pupils, due to cognitive overload, struggle to retain knowledge over the curriculum, particularly spellings, and it is not fully embedded into long term memory.</p> <p>Metacognition and self-regulation EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	4
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support, structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £70,257 (including SENDCo, EDUKey)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To ensure Maths interventions planned with priority given to PP and EAL learners, not least to increase confidence in terms of understanding mathematical vocabulary. Revision books/CGP materials purchased for pupils across the school to aid home learning.	<p>EEF states that Interventions should happen early, both because mathematical difficulties can affect performance in other areas of the curriculum, and in order to reduce the risk of children developing negative attitudes and anxiety about mathematics.</p> <p>Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3 EEF</p>	3
<p>To deliver targeted support for pupils in EYFS based on their baseline results.</p> <p>To ensure Rapid Catch-Up assessments are carried out across KS2 in order to identify children for targeted support/intervention.</p>	EEF - Oral language interventions refer to approaches that emphasise the importance of spoken language and verbal interaction in the classroom.	1 & 2
To effectively implement a systematic phonics programme across the school; daily spelling focus, use of sound mats to identify sound buttons.	The EEF states that Phonics approaches have been consistently found to be effective in supporting younger pupils to master the basics of reading, with an average impact of an additional five months' progress. Research suggests that phonics is particularly beneficial for younger learners (4–7 year olds) as they begin to read. Teaching phonics is more effective on average than other approaches to early reading (such as whole language or alphabetic approaches), though it should be emphasised that effective phonics techniques are usually	1 & 5

	<p>embedded in a rich literacy environment for early readers and are only one part of a successful literacy strategy.</p> <p>Phonics EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	
<p>To set an appropriate level of challenge to develop self-regulation and metacognition of disadvantaged pupils and those identified as SEND through daily rainbow retrieval practice and the use of self-regulation strategies for specific and concise tasks within topics on subject knowledge.</p>	<p>The EEF states that Metacognition and self-regulation approaches aim to help pupils think about their own learning more explicitly, often by teaching them specific strategies for planning, monitoring and evaluating their learning.</p> <p>Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning EEF</p>	4
<p>To increase confidence in reasoning and problem solving by using visual representations that provide insight into the structure of the problem.</p>	<p>The EEF states that to succeed in problem solving, pupils need to draw on a variety of problem-solving strategies which enable them to make sense of unfamiliar situations and tackle them intelligently.</p> <p>Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3 EEF</p>	3
<p>To ensure pupils have access to excellent quality texts, including vocabulary rich class texts, newspapers, journals, specifically selected fiction and nonfiction resources to ensure tailored reading choices.</p> <p>To ensure writing intervention is specifically geared towards use of vocabulary, use of tenses and subject verb agreement.</p>	<p>The EEF states that Teaching Assistants can provide a large positive impact on learner outcomes, however, how they are deployed is key. The average impact of the deployment of teaching assistants is about an additional four months' progress over the course of a year.</p> <p>Teaching Assistant Interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	2

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

Budgeted cost: £22,635 (including Ed Psych, Bridge the Gap, Safe & Sound, Catharsis, residential and trips.)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To continue to provide experiences for disadvantaged pupils to enrich their vocabulary who may otherwise struggle to receive these additional enrichment opportunities.	The EEF states that Arts participation is defined as involvement in artistic and creative activities. Arts-based approaches may be used in other areas of the curriculum, such as the use of drama to develop engagement and oral language before a writing task. Arts participation EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	2 & 5
To continue to raise attendance and reduce persistent absences through wrap around care for all pupils, especially PP and SEND by offering a Breakfast Club and clubs after school.	Relationships between school and parents/carers of disadvantaged pupils are strong. Breakfast Club, regular coffee mornings and opportunities for parents to engage with their children's learning through mission days, arts and craft days etc	2, 5 & 6
To embed the behaviour curriculum to improve behaviour and attitudes of all pupils, especially PP pupils and SEND, towards learning.	The EEF states that both targeted and universal approaches to behaviour have positive effects (=4 months). Schools should consider the appropriate combination of behaviour approaches to reduce overall disruption, providing tailored support where required. There is evidence across a range of different interventions with highest impacts for approaches that focus on self-management or role-play and rehearsal. When adopting behaviour interventions – whether targeted or universal – it is important to consider providing professional development to staff to ensure high quality delivery and consistency across the school Behaviour interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	5

Total budgeted cost: £133,150

Part B: Review of the previous academic year (Year 2)

We have analysed the performance of our school's disadvantaged pupils during the previous academic year, drawing on national assessment data and our own internal summative and formative assessments.

To help us gauge the performance of our disadvantaged pupils we compared their results to those for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils at national and local level (though these comparisons are to be considered with caution given ongoing pandemic impacts) and to results achieved by our non-disadvantaged pupils (please see tables below).

The aims for the school's strategy were as follows:

**For our disadvantaged children entering school to have improved communication skills so that they are able to communicate effectively with both staff and peers, enabling them to build relationships and become independent learners.*

Impact: Children entering school have had exposure to a rich and broad vocabulary through consistent exposure to modelled play. Pupils are growing more confident when communicating their emotional needs, at times demonstrating the ability to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Parental involvement has improved from the point of entry, contributing positively to the communication skills of disadvantaged pupils. However, this is still an area of focus. Effective teaching addresses pupils' spelling needs, as evidenced through lesson observations, vocabulary-rich displays and the consistent use of key vocabulary in Knowledge Organisers. Key vocabulary is systematically identified from core texts and explored through whole class reading sessions and ERIC activities. Pupils are now more confident at using more advanced vocabulary in both their spoken and written work and show increased confidence when speaking in front of their peers which has been supported through the Oracy project.

**Positive progress in Writing in KS2 and improved girls writing, particularly for higher attaining girls in KS1*

Impact: Oral rehearsal strategies and handwriting activities with a focus on spelling have been successfully embedded into classroom practice, supporting pupils' written accuracy and fluency. Positive attitudes towards reading have increased, contributing to a more enthusiastic and confident approach to writing. Curriculum design now places a strong emphasis on vocabulary development, supported by the consistent use of key vocabulary on Knowledge Organisers and classroom displays. While these initiatives have strengthened language acquisition and usage within school, the use of Standard English at home remains an area for ongoing support.

Key Results - 2024-2025						
Assessment	Statistic	Cohort	School Result	National Comparison	National Result	School Percentile Rank
KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths combined	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	52	67%	● At or above	62%	64th
KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths combined	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	52	15%	● At or above	8%	87th
Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)	% of pupils scoring full marks (25/25)	54	70%	⬆ Above (significant)	~ 38%	96th
Phonics Screening Check	% of pupils passing in Year 1	48	88%	● At or above	~ 80%	74th
Early Years Foundation Stage	% of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development	47	64%	■ Below	~ 69%	30th

A strong focus on phonics in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 has ensured that children are well-prepared for the transition into Key Stage 2. Phonics instruction continues effectively throughout Key Stage 2 for those pupils requiring additional support, ensuring no gaps in foundational literacy skills.

Phonics Screening Check									
Statistic	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		
	School	National	School	National	School	National	Cohort	School	National
% of pupils passing in Year 1	86% ●	75%	77% ■	79%	77% ■	80%	48	88% ●	~ 80%
% of pupils passing check by end of Year 2	38% ■	87%	98% ⬆	89%	86% ■	89%	50	90% ■	~ 91%

The teaching of spelling has notably improved through the implementation of more discrete, focused lessons. A structured approach—including weekly spelling tests and the successful introduction of a new spelling scheme developed by the English Lead—has contributed to greater consistency and progress across cohorts.

**Metacognition skills of disadvantaged children improves, and more key knowledge retained.*

Impact: Subject leaders have effectively led staff meetings to share progression maps and highlight key sticky knowledge within their subject areas, strengthening whole-school curriculum coherence and staff understanding, including Governors. Key knowledge and vocabulary are clearly communicated to parents through Knowledge Organisers and are readily accessible in pupils' books to support reference and reinforcement during lessons. Classrooms display key vocabulary prominently to reinforce language acquisition and curriculum content. Rainbow retrieval slides are embedded across the curriculum which strengthen pupils retention of knowledge and vocabulary. Other metacognitive strategies have been explored by staff, and while positive steps have been taken and promising practices are emerging, further refinement and embedding of these strategies are needed to ensure consistent impact across all year groups.

**For pupils under the K code who receive additional support through Individual Educational Plans (including those entitled to PP) to gain in academic confidence in Writing and Maths to equal the attainment and progress of non-SEND pupils.*

Impact: Targeted interventions have been effectively implemented for pupils in key groups whose progress was at risk of falling behind in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These interventions are tailored to specific areas of need and are showing a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

Weekly moderation sessions during PPA time are now fully embedded within each phase. These sessions consistently include the review of work from at least one pupil eligible for Pupil Premium or with SEND, ensuring a regular and focused evaluation of the appropriateness of adaptations, expectations, and outcomes. Phase leaders lead these sessions and report findings to the Leadership Team on a regular basis, supporting ongoing strategic oversight and responsive action.

**To ensure attendance rates for pupils eligible for PP to be at least in-line with National.*

Impact: Our Family Liaison Officer has maintained a consistent communication with parents, which has strengthened relationships and provided timely support to improve attendance. As a result, a greater number of children are receiving raffle tickets, reinforcing positive attendance habits. Additionally, the move away from Amazon vouchers to a Dojo points-based reward system has been well received by pupils. The increased relevance and visibility of Dojo points within the school community have enhanced motivation, with many children now showing greater enthusiasm for earning raffle tickets and engaging positively with the attendance initiative.

ATTENDANCE DATA			
	% Attendance of pupils eligible for the PP	% Attendance for All pupils	National % Attendance for All pupils
2024-25 (Y1-Y6)	95.92%	96.08%	
2023-24 (Y1-Y6)	92.8%	95.3%	95.2%
2022-23 (Y1-Y6)	91.06%	94.44%	na
Based on all the information above, the performance of our disadvantaged pupils met expectations, and we are at present on course to achieve the outcomes we set out to achieve by 2025/26, as stated in the Intended Outcomes section above.			

Assessment Data for previous 4 years

Key Stage 2										
Subject	Statistic	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		
		School	National	School	National	School	National	Cohort	School	National
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	80%	59%	71%	60%	80%	61%	52	67%	62%
Reading, Writing & Maths combined	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	10%	7%	8%	8%	14%	8%	52	15%	8%
Reading	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	90%	74%	86%	73%	88%	74%	52	92%	75%
Reading	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	30%	28%	41%	29%	44%	29%	52	33%	33%
Reading	Average scaled score	106.7	105.0	107.8	105.0	108.5	105.0	52	106.8	106.0
Writing	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	88%	69%	73%	71%	90%	72%	52	77%	72%
Writing	% of pupils working at greater depth	30%	13%	17%	13%	20%	13%	52	21%	13%
Maths	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	88%	71%	84%	73%	90%	73%	52	87%	74%
Maths	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	24%	22%	18%	24%	26%	24%	52	29%	26%
Maths	Average scaled score	105.5	104.0	104.7	104.0	105.7	104.0	52	106.3	105.0
GPS	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	86%	72%	88%	72%	96%	72%	52	92%	73%
GPS	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	18%	28%	45%	30%	50%	32%	52	44%	30%
GPS	Average scaled score	106.1	105.0	108.2	105.0	109.7	105.0	52	109.1	105.0
Science	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	88%	79%	87%	80%	90%	81%	52	88%	82%

Externally provided programmes

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

Programme	Provider