

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium for the 2024 to 2025 academic year to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in the academic year and the effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	University Academy Long Sutton
Number of pupils in school	722
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	45%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	22/23 23/24 24/25
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	December 2025
Statement authorised by	Liam Dave
Pupil premium lead	John Stewart
Governor / Trustee lead	Michelle Papworth

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£310,820
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	£310,820

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

The Government has published independent research to demonstrate the continued barriers to attainment faced by disadvantaged pupils. Research has shown that disadvantaged pupils have been disproportionately affected by the impact of the pandemic. Principally, these include lower prior attainment, especially difficulties with literacy and numeracy, and issues relating to attendance and behaviour.

With these national concerns being echoed in our specific experiences at University Academy Long Sutton, we aim to address these issues. To achieve this, we ensure that we view all pupils as individuals and we never assume that pupils within a particular group face similar barriers or that they have less potential to succeed.

In line with this ethos, our primary strategy is to provide good or better teaching for all pupils at all times. Where specific additional needs are identified we offer additional targeted support, and alternative approaches wherever possible including the use of interventions with a good track record of success such as Accelerated Reader to improve the reading age of our disadvantaged KS3 pupils.

The key principles of our strategy are based on the current challenges and individual needs of our disadvantaged pupils. We do not treat our disadvantaged pupils as a homogenous group and the academic and wider support on offer is personalised to their needs.

We have identified 7 specific barriers to attainment for our PP pupils that form the basis of our strategy within the overall aim of closing the gap in attainment between our disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Low literacy
2	Low numeracy skills
3	Low Attendance
4	Poor behaviour and social skills
5	Emotional and social factors including safeguarding
6	Lack of knowledge with respect to different education/career pathways
7	Lack of parental engagement and support for pupils and the school

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
1 Diminish the difference in literacy skills between PP and non-PP pupils	Increase the literacy skills of PP pupils. Handwriting is improved and all PP pupil handwriting is legible. Pupils have an increased vocabulary of words that they are able to use effectively in speech and writing. Progress improves in line with non-PP pupils. P8 figures at least in line with National figures for Non PP pupils.
2 Diminish the difference on numeracy skills between PP and non-PP pupils	Increase the numeracy skills of PP pupils assessed on entry and improvements measured using numeracy testing programmes and internal assessments.
3 Increase attendance of PP pupils to aspirational target of 95% or better	PP pupils are in more lessons.

	Persistent Absence of PP pupils is reduced. And in line with attendance of non-disadvantaged Improved progress as a result of being in lessons. 40% of PP pupils involved in all activities in order to improve engagement.
4 Improve the behaviour of a minority of PP pupils and raise academic attainment	Reduce exclusion rates, and behaviour tracking for pupils. Clear interventions that are measurable, tracked and regularly reviewed for sustained impact.
5 Provide appropriate resources and emotional and social support including safeguarding to PP pupils	There is appropriate and effective Mentoring support alongside Mental health and well-being support
6 Raise awareness of educational pathways and career opportunities for PP and HAPP pupils	Careers advisor meets with all Y11 pupils making them aware of the opportunities available regarding both future educational and career pathways Higher Ability PP (HAPP) have increased knowledge and understanding of future pathways including university
7 Increase parental engagement and involvement in pupil education	Parents have regular positive contact with school. More Home visits to support non-attendance. Increased engagement of parents invited for meetings with Learning Coordinators and tutors to discuss progress outside of Parents Evenings including the EBSA/ATTEND framework meetings. Termly contact via face to face and or telephone re progress made for PP pupils with PP coordinators to discuss attendance/achievements/ barriers to learning. PP coordinators contact and

	record details = evidence of support and parental engagement. Improve behaviour evidenced through reduced internal and external exclusions
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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: £ 190,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
High quality specialist teachers in all subjects. We will ensure we recruit and retain high quality teachers in all subject areas	High quality teaching is the most important factor in ensuring all pupils make good progress EEF Feedback	1,2,3,4
To aid teachers in identifying and meeting the needs of all PP pupils, an inset activity was initiated last academic year where teachers of all PP pupils identified areas of strength and weakness and this is available on provision map for teachers to use and amend as necessary, pooling together ideas and strategies that work in the classroom.	High quality teaching is the most important factor in ensuring all pupils make good progress EEF Feedback	1,2,3,4
Purchased the National college remote video CPD to empower school leaders,	High quality CPD for all is proven to have an impact on teacher performance and pupil outcomes	4,5,6,7

teachers, staff and governors		
Use of standardised testing- Yellis	High quality assessment vital to promote and develop pupil progress Assessment and Feedback EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1,2
This academic year teacher walkthrough's have been introduced. The aim to improve teaching and Learning across the academy Whole school teaching Foci. Departmental Foci. Individual teacher Foci.	High quality teaching is the most important factor in ensuring all pupils make good progress EEF Feedback Formal lesson observations and learning walks to ensure consistent approach.	1,2
Alongside New schemes of work written in all subject areas in 23/24 that included quality assessments that lead to accurate data tracking and identifying gaps in knowledge for PP pupils, this academic year will see the introduction of Subject road maps, easily identifying the key skills and routes to	High quality assessment vital to promote and develop pupil progress Assessment and Feedback EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1,2,4,5,6

success in every subject.		
Continued emphasis and support for good attendance with a full time Education welfare Officer (EWO), attendance officer and LINK room coordinator.	EEF importance parental engagement: Being present: the power of Attendance and stability for disadvantaged pupils(nfer.ac.uk) Covid 19 has had significant impact on school attendance nationally	3,4,5,7
NPQSL/NPQLT/NPQBL training courses	Nationally accredited CPD courses will develop the level of expertise and staff knowledge to ensure that high quality teaching and learning is delivered.to all pupils including the disadvantaged	1,2,3,4,5
Appointment of 5 Pupil premium coordinators September 2021	The OFSTED publication “The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending funding successfully to maximise achievement” highlights targeted support as one of the top ten “top gap busters”; it also emphasises the need for schools to think carefully about what barriers to learning some pupils face	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
KS4- provision for ALL core subjects in the form of after school intervention. Lunch time intervention in all other KS4 non-core subjects available alongside holiday intervention sessions.	One – one tuition EEF (Education endowmentfoundation.org.uk) (Extended school time EEF)	1,3,4
Staff training CPD from outside agencies focusing on meeting the needs of ALL pupils including those with	Pupil well-being has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic COVID-19 isolation having detrimental impact on children’s education and	3,4,5,7

specific SEND needs and mental health issues.	welfare, particularly the most vulnerable- gov.uk(www.gov.uk)	
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £ [39,500]

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Accelerated reader – across year 7 and 8 and Read/Write ink programme for those below 10 years reading age on entry	Extensive AR research evidence. Y7 PP pupils make 5 months additional reading progress compared with 3 months for non PP pupils on the programme. AR contributes positively towards improving literacy levels at the start of secondary school. Improve literacy by raising reading ages. EEF review of research shows that AR and read/write ink improves reading ages if implemented properly across the school.	1
Develop a school reading plan using the Library more effectively for lessons and extra-curricular activities.	Whole school reading plan removes the stigma of reading, especially for boys.	1
Peer reading sessions	Engages reluctant readers more effectively, increased relevance to daily life.	1
Read/Write Inc.	The importance of Y7 pupils who are below expected KS2 levels bridging the	1

	gap early into Y7 allowing them to fully access the KS3 curriculum.	
Book reading clubs and Buzz Books	Develop a love for reading will improve academic attainment due to increasing vocabulary/understanding text etc...each PP to receive a free book.	1
Whole school literacy focuses each week.	Developing good practice and high standards of literacy needs to be imbedded across all subject areas not just English.	1
Whole school communication days. SALAD days.	Important to develop pupils' communication skills.	1
Handwriting focus- Pupils receive one to one handwriting intervention from trained experts.	Specifically aimed at boys and making sure their exam answers and written work is legible and that they are not disadvantaged due to poor handwriting skills.	1
General improvement strategies for classroom teaching that will be effective for Learning Walks, Lesson observations, book trawls PP identified in mark books - Deliberate seating. Class charts used to ensure teachers are fully aware of the PP learners in their classroom and therefore their	PP First collaboration, proven success in Lincolnshire school. Continued whole school commitment to growth mind-set language. Educational research underpins high impact on learning outcomes of effective feedback (EEF research)	1, 2,4

specific needs are met. Question first, knowledge of PP pupils evident Exercise books identified and prioritised for feedback	Book trawls used to identify PP priority	
Maths Whizz /Blue tick/E Revision/My Maths package/ Maths pad/White rose/Maths box/10Ticks– will be purchased and implemented across the school	These packages allow PP pupils to access Maths both within school time and at home to help their subject knowledge develop and to apply skills learnt.	2
Interventions available in all subjects through lunchtime, after school and Easter /Half term school for all PP KS4 pupils Transport provided where necessary to Easter/Half term School – for PP pupils	Extending school time EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1,2,3,4,6
Improved access to enrichment activities such as music lessons, careers trips. 40% rule to ensure PP pupils are represented	EEF- significant impact on wellbeing, resilience. When pupils cannot access the extra activities, it makes them feel undervalued and they lose interest in the course. PP pupils need to feel they have equal access to all aspects of school life and enrichment – their PP	3,4,5,6,7

proportionally across all activities. School to make financial contributions towards costs of essential school trips.	status should not inhibit their development.	
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ [81,320]

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
EBSA Lincolnshire ladder and ATTEND framework	Evidence shows that PP pupils have been disproportionately affected with poor mental health as a direct result	3

implemented across all year groups .	of school closures during the covid pandemic COVID-19 isolation having detrimental impact on children's education and welfare, particularly the most vulnerable- gov.uk(www.gov.uk)	
CAMHS intervention	Research shows that Professional support is essential in tackling and improving mental health COVID-19 isolation having detrimental impact on children's education and welfare, particularly the most vulnerable- gov.uk(www.gov.uk)	5
PSP/BOSS intervention Intervention to reduce exclusion rates both internal and externally.	Evidence shows that targeted pastoral support plans are vital in supporting pupils who display challenging behaviour in school , in addition outside Professional support through employing behaviour outreach support workers will improve the behaviour and engagement of pupils who's progress is affected by poor behaviour	4
Employment 2021 of full time EWO to act as a link between school and pupils with poor attendance and develop parental engagement Full time Attendance officer to support EWO Appointed September 2022	EEF importance parental engagement: Being present: the power of Attendance and stability for disadvantaged pupils(nfer.ac.uk)	3

PP champions. 1 per year group appointed 2021	The OFSTED publication “The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending funding successfully to maximise achievement” highlights targeted support as one of the top ten “top gap busters”; it also emphasises the need for schools to think carefully about what barriers to learning some pupils face	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Additional funding to support PP pupils to include uniform, equipment plus a Scientific calculator for all. PP pupils and free revision guides in all KS4 subject areas Lap tops/internet connections provided for PP pupils to study from home.	Required for PP to fully access the Maths curriculum The importance of supporting the engagement of disadvantaged pupils in all aspects of the curriculum including access to technology at home to ensure full access for these pupils. The PP coordinators appointed 1 for each year group will help achieve this aim.	2,4,5,6
Super learning days. Raising aspirations assemblies. Careers fair. College taster day. University visits. PP budget. Engage with Lincs higher PP pupils’ parents/carers to go on a visit to Lincoln university	Low prior attainment can result in lower targets being set, so pupils are limited throughout their education. Pupils need aspirational targets to focus teachers on aiming higher and to ensure pupils don’t settle for ‘good enough’. PP pupils seeing the opportunities available will help raise PP aspirations.	3,4,6

LINK room. A new provision to aid attendance and engagement of pupils. One full time Attendance coordinator appointed to run this provision in September 2023	Improving attendance of the PP cohort and therefore raising engagement and attainment	
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Total budgeted cost: £ 310,820

Part 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.

Supporting Disadvantaged Pupils: Progress and Commitment

Improving the quality of support for disadvantaged pupils to help them achieve outcomes that reflect their potential has been a primary goal. To demonstrate our commitment, we appointed five Pupil Premium (PP) coordinators three years ago. Since then, we have further expanded our support by introducing a full-time attendance support coordinator in March 2023 and establishing a dedicated LINK room in September 2023. The LINK room, funded by PP resources, provides targeted support for our most vulnerable pupils. In 2023-2024, 67 pupils accessed the LINK room, 39 of whom were PP pupils. Of these, 66% showed improved attendance during the academic year.

Performance Progress: Narrowing the Gap

The academic outcomes for disadvantaged pupils have shown steady improvement, with the performance gap consistently narrowing over the past three years:

- **2022:** Gap = 0.84 (-1.05 vs. -0.21)
- **2023:** Gap = 0.56 (-0.87 vs. -0.31)
- **2024:** Gap = 0.47 (-1.04 vs. -0.57)

In 2023, PP pupil performance improved by +0.18 compared to 2022, while non-PP pupil performance declined slightly (-0.10). Despite a slight decline in the overall Progress 8 score for PP pupils in 2024, their progress (-0.17) exceeded that of non-PP pupils (-0.26), highlighting the positive impact of our targeted strategies.

Attendance Improvements and Challenges

Attendance data also reflects progress, although challenges remain:

- **2021-22:** PP attendance = 83.93% vs. 88.18% for non-PP pupils (gap = 4.25%)
- **2022-23:** PP attendance = 86.70% vs. 90.51% (gap = 3.80%)
- **2023-24:** PP attendance = 86.91% vs. 91.45% (gap = 4.54%)

Over two years, PP attendance improved by 2.77%. However, in 2024, the attendance gap widened slightly, reversing two years of consistent progress. This reflects ongoing challenges such as school avoidance, increased anxiety, and mental health issues among disadvantaged pupils in the aftermath of the pandemic.

To address this, we introduced the LINK room with a full-time coordinator to support vulnerable pupils and improve their school attendance. This initiative has already yielded positive results, with 66% of PP pupils demonstrating improved attendance

compared to the previous year. We remain focused on closing the attendance gap further through initiatives such as home visits for disengaged and poorly attending PP pupils.

We will continue to work with all individuals to ensure any in-school gaps in performance are minimised or removed.

Externally provided programmes

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
National college CPD full course suite	The National College
NPQSL/NPQLT/NPQBL	Educational development trust
Provision Map	Home – Learning plans & Provision Map Writer

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	All service children are supported by the LC teams from transition to the school, where required they are offered additional support to ensure their needs are met.
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	All service children received the level of support they required.

Further information (optional)

Lessons learned

A priority moving forward is to improve attendance and the impact of lost learning time on performance. Mental health of our pupils has a major impact on levels of attendance and is a massive focus moving forward.

In examining a range of sources about the impact of disadvantage on pupils and of the Covid 19 pandemic, we have planned a 3-year approach to improve outcomes for this group, we used the EEF guide to the Pupil Premium as well as GOV.UK's Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders to help draw up this plan.