

Policy for the use of Pupil Premium September 2021



Approved by: Gill Denham **Date:** November 2021

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What is the Pupil Premium?

It is a sum of money given to the school each year to narrow attainment gaps between pupils from low income families and their peers. It aims to provide significant funding for disadvantaged children to help close the attainment gap.

The Pupil Premium is allocated to the school and is generated by children from low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in both mainstream and non-mainstream settings as well as children who have been eligible for FSM at any point during their primary school years. These children are categorised as 'Ever 6' pupils. Additionally children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children with parents on active duty in the armed forces are eligible for pupil premium.

How much is it?

The level of the premium remains at £1345 per pupil for pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) during 2020-21. It is paid at a higher rate of £2345 for pupils in care who have been continuously looked after for six months. For children who are classed as 'service children' (a child whose parent is in the armed services or whose parent collects a pension from the Ministry of Defence) it is paid at a rate of £310 per pupil. In 2021/22, we expect to receive approximately £180,000 pupil premium money at Marish and £135,000 at Willow.

The main barriers to educational achievement faced by pupils at our schools are:

Lack of aspiration, poor attendance, lack of access to mental health, social care and well-being support, inadequate nutrition and housing; and for a considerable minority insecurity and unsafe home environments, including some where substance abuse is endemic and trans-generational.

How pupil Premium is to be spent to address these barriers and the reasons for this approach.

The Pupil Premium has been targeted at pupils from low income homes using known eligibility for FSM as a proxy, since all the evidence and facts make it abundantly clear that poverty is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances. Starting in April 2012 the Government widened the coverage of the Premium to include those eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years.

The Government requires schools, from September 2012, to publish online details of how they have used the premium. This will ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the attainment of pupils covered by the premium.

The DFE guidance states that Pupil Premium should be spent on the following:

- for the purposes of the school, that is for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school
- for the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools or academies
- on community facilities. For example, services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work in the locality in which the school is situated.

Until September 2017 our pupil premium was spent exclusively for the educational benefit of pupils registered at our schools. However, from 2017, we have used a small amount of pupil premium monies (£2000 p.a) to fund the set up and maintenance costs of a children's community football club based at the school, Marish Wizards. This means we are, from 2017 onwards, also using the pupil premium for purposes listed at bullet points 2 and 3 above.

In 2020–2021, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of our pupil premium money was spent on supporting our disadvantaged families with food (as it has been required to be during 2019-20).

At Marish Academy Trust, we have a clear strategic plan for our use of Pupil Premium Funding. We first and foremost focus on quality first teaching for all our pupils, including disadvantaged pupils. Our disadvantaged strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this policy, but our generic principles for its spend are outlined below:

Overarching Principles

At Marish and Willow Primary Schools

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of the pupils
- We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, this includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged

- We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged. At least 70% of any group will be made up of FSM children

How will the money be used at Marish and Willow?

At both schools we look at how the money is best spent by considering the individual needs of each child. There are a broad range of uses for the money, but when we consider how best it is to be used, **the only criteria is that it must support the school in raising the child's academic achievement so that they are at least in line with their peers.**

The range of provision the Governors may consider making for this group could include:

- Reducing class sizes thus improving opportunities for effective AfL and accelerating progress
- Providing small group work with an experienced teacher focused on overcoming gaps in learning.
- 1-1 support such as 121 booster , Reading Recovery etc
- additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through learning mentors, trained TAs or external agencies
- Pupil premium resources may be used to target able children on FSM to achieve greater depth at KS1 or higher than the expected standard at KS2.
- Pupil premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals.
- Provision will be made to ensure children's attendance and well-being at school, because if they do not attend regularly or if they arrive at school hungry, they are unlikely to be able to make the most of their opportunities. So, PP monies may be used to provide free transport to school or free breakfast and after school club places and meals. Money is also used to staff and support our attendance team's work which includes essential home visits in pairs.
- Provision may be used to provide therapeutic support (such as Nurture Group, Play Therapy) as well as to support programs that increase self-esteem and resilience (such as Kids Connect).
- We make provision using pupil premium for some children to attend school trips, including residential school journeys and holiday and extra-curricular clubs.

- Occasionally we also provide necessities, such as clothing and shoes, using pupil premium, for families in crisis.
- In the 2021-22 academic year, we will continue to use some pupil premium money to narrow the attainment gap between more able children in receipt of pupil premium in comparison with that of their non pupil-premium peers. This will be supported by the Government's School Led Tutoring grant
- Also in the 2021/22 academic year, we will use a small amount of pupil premium to support our community football club, Marish Wizards

Additional Funding for Pupil Premium Children

In recognition of the disproportionate impact that repeated lockdowns have had on disadvantaged children, the government have launched a one-off recovery premium for the academic year 2021-22. An allocation of £145 per eligible pupil will be paid throughout the year in four instalments. This money will be used to accelerate the progress of this cohort, helping overcome the disadvantaging nature that extended absences from school has caused. It will also be used to support removing the barriers from learning as well as equipping staff to adequately meet the needs that this specific group many have. This money is in addition to the School Led Tutoring grant. This funding will therefore be used to:

- Support the training of staff to deliver therapeutic support that will help lower barriers to learning (such as Nurture group, Kidz Connect, learning mentoring and Zippy's Friends)
- Support the roll-out of the above mentioned therapeutic services
- Increase the scope and duration of small group tutoring
- Expand the scope and duration of 1:1 programs such as boosters and reading recovery
- Ensure that PP children have adequate access to resources (i.e. books, workbooks, technology, online subscriptions) which will remove barriers to learning

As with the Pupil Premium allocation, this spending (and its impact) will be monitored and reported to the school governorship as well as part of our Pupil Premium strategy statement.

How Marish Academy Trust is to measure the impact and effect of its expenditure of the pupil premium allocation

At the end of the academic year, the Governors of Marish Academy Trust will ensure that there is an annual statement to stakeholders posted on the website showing how the Pupil Premium funding has been used and analysing its impact on the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils.

It will be the responsibility of the Substantive Headteacher and Executive Headteacher, or a delegated member of staff, to include the following information in the annual data report for the Governors:

The report will include:

- a statement about the progress made towards narrowing the gap, by Key stage, for socially disadvantaged pupils
- an outline of the provision that was made since the last annual report
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

For the academic year 2021-22, this will also include impact statements specifically for the provision made as a result of the Covid Recovery Premium as well as the School Led Tutoring grant. Just as with the Pupil Premium, this statement will outline the provision made, the impact with regards to narrowing the gap as well as an evaluation of cost effectiveness (in line with the Pupil Premium monies). Whilst focused on pupil premium pupils, it is recognised that this money can, and should, impact a wider cohort and the impact that this money have have on non pupil premium children will also make up part of this report.

Date and version	Ratified by	Next review due
September 2015 1.0	Strategic Board Oct 2015	September 2016
September 2016 2.0	Strategic Board Oct 2016	September 2017
September 2017 3.0	Strategic Board Oct 2017	September 2018
September 2018 4.0	Strategic Board Oct 2018	September 2019
September 2019 5.0	Strategic Board Oct 2019	September 2020
September 2020 6.0	Strategic Board Oct 2020	September 2021
September 2021 7.0	Strategic Board Oct 2021	September 2022

Appendix 1 Strategy for disadvantaged (pupil premium and other vulnerable pupils), at Marish Academy Trust

<p>At Marish Academy Trust our strategy for Pupil Premium/Disadvantaged is...</p> <p>*Examples at point 4 include: Food parcels, laptops and CGP books to enable children to access home learning; transport to and from school; free breakfast and after school clubs; free child-care and holiday clubs; free school uniform or trips; Where appropriate, free or subsidised places on residential trips; support with groceries, toiletries etc., for families in extremis; support with learning English and support getting into work and accessing services, such as early help, social care, food bank, housing, mental health services for adults; Support for remote learning during periods of lockdown (either national or in year group bubbles) though the provision of online learning subscriptions, physical resources (worksheets, text books etc..) and devices where the government scheme was unable to provide technology; finally, for children, support for wellbeing in the form of a learning mentor, teacher or play therapist to talk to.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to disadvantage these children further by labelling them unhelpfully 2. To acknowledge that there are many hidden disadvantaged within our schools 3. Having taking into account points 1 and 2; to do whatever it takes to remove individual/multiple barriers to learning for each child and family. 4. To provide for needs, whatever they are, free; with the express aim of levelling the field. 5. Having completed steps 1-4 for all children in need, we have consistently reduced the attainment and progress gap in both schools over the last three years, so that by the end of KS2 disadvantaged children typically achieve as well as their peers and considerably better than the national 'other' group. Therefore, each year, we continue this strategy and develop it further. 6. We are also mindful of local contextual factors that change over time, such as the drop in pupil premium monies and numbers of pupils year on year, since universal free school meals for infants were introduced in 2014. However, due to Covid-19, there was broadly an increase in pupil premium numbers during 2019-2020 (although this was not evenly distributed, with an increase in numbers, and therefore funding, for Marish and a decrease in numbers and funding at Willow). This slight increase still underestimates the level of need present in the Trusts as issues relating to language barriers and social stigma still inhibit the 'take up' of this offer.
<p>Each year the Trust receives about</p>	<p>£ 176,565 at Marish and £125,757.50 at Willow in pupil premium monies</p>
<p>In September each year, the school leadership present how they intend to spend our pupil premium monies in the next academic year, for governor discussion and agreement:</p>	<p>So, for example, in September 2021, governors agreed that the school leadership would spend the predicted amounts of pupil premium monies we would receive in 2021-22 in the same way we have over last 6 years. A particular focus and emphasis on supporting disadvantaged pupils to overcome the emotional and educational impact of multiple 'Lockdowns'</p>

<p>At the same meeting in September each year, the school leadership outline what the predicted outcome of this spend will be in terms of outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>(For specific details, please refer PP spend impact document and policy on the trust website)</p>	<p>So, in September 2021, the school leadership explained what the impact of this spend would be on outcomes in general and specific terms. For example, in general terms the money would help maintain the high level of outcomes for the disadvantaged pupils in both schools and reduce any remaining differentials for some prior attainment groups still further. There is a particular focus on children that have been even further disadvantaged as a result of covid-19. In specific terms, it would also impact on the attainment of disadvantaged boys writing in year 6 at Marish and more able and disadvantaged pupils reading and maths in Year 5 at Willow. Investment will also be made in supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of Pupils in Year 2 across the Trust as the disruption to school life over the last two years has had a significant impact.</p>
<p>In October or November each year, (or whenever national data for disadvantaged pupils is released), the school leadership report to governors on how they have spent the pupil premium monies for the previous year and what its impact has been</p>	<p>Please refer to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Impact of Pupil Premium Spend documents, which are posted on our website and which explain both how our money was used in previous years and its impact.</p>
<p>At the same October/November meeting, the governors review the spend for the previous academic year and compare the predicted impact with the actual outcomes. Generally they match.</p>	<p>The minutes of this meeting show the impact not only of the pupil premium monies spend but the discussion also provides governors with an opportunity to evaluate the impact of governors' involvement in this important strategic aspect of the schools' work.</p>