

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2025 to 2026 academic year) 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 effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Devonshire Primary School
Number of pupils in school	675
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	27.23% (177)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	3 Years
Date this statement was published	November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	November 2026
Statement authorised by	Fiona Oastler
Pupil premium lead	Melanie Elsey
Governor	Anne Arnold

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£ 257,770
Recovery Premium funding allocation	£ 0
School Budget Top up	£ 35,693
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£ 0
Total budget for this academic year.	£ 293,463

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

The school uses the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

Quality First 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. We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential.

The main barriers to educational achievement for eligible pupils are considered and objectives are as follows:

- Narrow the attainment gap between PPG children and non-PPG children as well as other pupils who are disadvantaged or underachieving.
- Raise the levels of attainment and progress made.
- Provide relevant and appropriate social and emotional support/interventions and opportunities to improve attendance, behaviour and confidence.
- Use evidence to inform our decisions on pupil premium spending – for example, by using evidence-based research and resources from the Education Endowment Foundation, and learning from what works in our school.

Some examples of how the school may use the grant include, but are not limited to:

- Providing extra one-to-one or small-group support
- Employing extra teaching assistants
- Running catch-up sessions (for example, for children who need extra help with maths or literacy)
- Providing extra tuition where needed (ahead of national assessments)
- Financial support for educational trips and visits
- Subsidise the cost of swimming in school for Key Stage 2 pupils
- Emotional support through the provision of ELSA and/or play therapy
- Providing advice and support for parents through the employment of a Family Support Worker (FSW)
- Provide social and emotional support and opportunities through our pastoral team and/or external agencies

Challenges

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Our attendance data over the last 3 years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.</p>
2	<p>Our assessments and observations indicate that the education and well-being of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been impacted by partial school closures to a greater extent than for other pupils. These findings are supported by national studies.</p> <p>This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations.</p>
3	<p>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.</p>
4	<p>Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers and writers.</p>
5	<p>Our parental surveys, home visits and discussions, indicate that 86% of our pupils do not have direct access to a secure outside space.</p> <p>Our observations and internal data indicate this this has a negative impact on their ability to engage in positive play and friendship resolution.</p>

Intended outcomes

Intended outcome	Success criteria
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Improved attendance for all pupils so that it is at least in line with or above national average. Persistent absence for disadvantaged pupils is below national average.
Improved writing attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 writing outcomes improved to show that the number of disadvantaged pupils meeting the expected standard is rising.
Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. Evident when triangulating with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2025/26 demonstrated by qualitative data from pupil voice, pupil and parent surveys and teacher observations

Activity in this academic year

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £ 21,919

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Working Together to Improve School Attendance.</p> <p>This will involve time for the Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) to implement procedures meet with parents and other agencies.</p>	<p>The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.</p> <p>Purchased LA Attendance additional services to support attendance improvements in PP children.</p>	1
<p>Refining of Little Wandle Phonics across the whole school staff to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.</p>	<p>Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base that indicates a positive impact on the accuracy of word reading (though not necessarily comprehension), particularly for disadvantaged pupils:</p> <p>Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	2, 4
<p>Embed Zones of regulation to support the well-being of children.</p>	<p>Zones of Regulation strategy is used effectively and consistently across the school.</p> <p>Children are more confident in being able to recognise and identify their emotions.</p> <p>Children are more confident in knowing how to manage their feelings and behaviour.</p> <p>Children have a 'toolbox' of things they can use to manage their feelings positively.</p> <p>Behaviour for learning is improved</p>	1, 2, 5

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

Budgeted cost: £224,455

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Delivery of 1:1 intervention through the provision of Precision Teaching and teacher booster time.</p>	<p>A wealth of research has suggested that Precision Teaching is effective. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Griffin and Murtagh (2015): Precision Teaching improved sight vocabulary, reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension in primary school pupils compared to a control group. • Lambe, Murphy and Kelly (2015): Precision Teaching improved the reading fluency of primary aged pupils. • Chiesa & Robertson (2000): Precision Teaching improved the maths skills of primary aged children above their peers. • Roberts & Norwich (2010): Precision Teaching improved the word reading skills of secondary aged pupils. 	<p>3, 4</p>
<p>Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support.</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 Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	<p>2, 3, 4</p>
<p>Provide targeted interventions for pupils whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. A significant proportion of the pupils who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.</p>	<p>Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one:</p> <p>One to one tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p> <p>And in small groups:</p> <p>Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	<p>2, 3, 4</p>

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

Budgeted cost: £ 47,089

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Employment of a Family Support worker to support parent and pupil well-being.	What Families think about family support services CCPS Family Support Research 2018	1, 2
Employment of ELSA and Nurture TA to support pupils' understanding of their emotions and how to manage them.	Evaluation of the ELSA Programme Swindon Educational Psychology Service 2020 Evaluation of the Nurture UK programme	1, 2, 5
Employment of a Play Therapist to work with children who have experienced ACEs in early childhood.	Ray, D. C, & McCullough, R. (2015; revised 2016). Evidence-based practice statement: Play therapy (Research report). Retrieved from Association for Play Therapy website: http://www.a4pt.org/?page=EvidenceBased	1, 2
Employment of a Speech and Language Specialist TA (ELKLAN Trained) to work with children who have language difficulties.	Speech and language therapists provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children who have difficulties with communication, eating, drinking and swallowing.	3, 4
Trips and club Support	Assisting with the cost of trips and clubs to ensure that there are the same opportunities for all children. Staff provide clubs to broaden these opportunities.	
Contingency fund for acute issues.	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 quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Total budgeted cost: £ 293,463

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

We have analysed the performance of our school's disadvantaged pupils during the 2024/25 academic year using published data (phonics check, multiplication check and KS2 SATs) as well as own internal assessments.

A number of the PPG children also fall into the SEN and EAL categories which has an impact on the gaps seen in the data. Although progress was made it was not significant enough to have moved the children into the age-related expectation.

Absence among disadvantaged pupils was 2% higher than their peers in 2024/25. We recognise this gap is too large which is why raising the attendance of our disadvantaged pupils is a focus of our current plan.

Our observations and assessments demonstrated that pupil behaviour improved last year, but challenges in relation to wellbeing and mental health remain significantly higher and have required increased provision within our pastoral team.

Further information (optional)

We have put a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils.