



Introduction

The Pupil Premium is additional funding allocated to St Mary's Catholic School. It is used to support students who, within the last six years, have been registered for free school meals at any point or have been on a local authority's looked-after children register. Pupil Premium funding applies to children of service personnel too. St Mary's currently has 291 Pupil Premium students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, representing 23.9% of the school population in these year groups.

At St Mary's, we have an excellent record of closing the gap between our disadvantaged pupils and those who are not in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. We have the highest aspirations for all our pupils, regardless of social background, and allocate our resources so that they have maximum impact on pupil progress and learning. This is reflected in the fact that, year on year, our valued added scores, the expected progress that a pupil makes between Year 6 and Year 11, are significantly above national averages for both Pupil Premium students and non-Pupil Premium students. We are proud of this outstanding achievement.

Pupil Premium Allocations

The chart below indicates the school's allocation each year for Pupil Premium.

Academic Year	PP Allocation
2017-18	£244,000
2018-19	£244,000
2019-20	£251,048
2020-21	£280,910

Use of Pupil Premium Funding

In recent academic years, Pupil Premium funding has allowed our children to benefit from a range of strategies, including:

1. Literacy Programme

The evidence that higher literacy levels lead to greater examination success and improved life chances is overwhelming. At the start of Year 7, we gauge the literacy of all pupils using the Suffolk Reading Test. The students with the lowest reading levels follow a daily reading intervention programme, which, depending on need, can last for the whole of Key Stage 3. For children who find reading a particular challenge, the programme extends into Key Stage 4.

Cost: £20,000

Commentary

Pupils remain on the programme for as long as it is necessary. They work their way through a range materials and do so at a pace that is appropriate to each individual. The pupils who attend these intensive literacy sessions make big gains in their reading ability. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that higher literacy levels are linked to

both improved academic achievement and improved personal development. This is why we invest so much in improving the literacy levels of our pupils. This year, 15 of our Year 7 Pupil Premium students benefit from this intervention.

2. Reducing Class Sizes

Across the curriculum, there are many classes with fewer than fifteen students. Whilst smaller class sizes alone do not necessarily lead to improved attainment, they do allow for more one-to-one and small-group support from the teacher during the lesson. This improves outcomes considerably, especially in those groups where students require more intervention. What is more, smaller class sizes are a result of the high degree of flexibility within our curriculum. In short, this means that the vast majority of our Key Stage 4 pupils study subjects that are most suited to their needs and preferences.

Cost: £100,000

Commentary

All our Pupil Premium students benefit from this strategy. This year, across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, there are 34 classes with 15 students or fewer.

3. Additional Maths and English classes

We have created additional classes in maths and English across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to provide our more vulnerable students with extra support in the most important areas of the curriculum. These classes run at times when it is possible and appropriate to withdraw these students from other lessons. For example, some pupils in Key Stage 3 study only one modern foreign language instead of two. This time is spent catching up on literacy and numeracy.

We also run intensive tutor-time maths, English, and science sessions for small groups of Year 11 pupils in the spring and summer terms. Underachieving socially disadvantaged pupils are a specific target group for this intervention strategy, which has been very successful over the last few years.

Cost: £50,000

Commentary

As the data above demonstrates, the achievement of our Pupil Premium students in maths and English is outstanding.

4. Pastoral Care

Improving behaviour, attendance and punctuality across all year groups continues to be an important element at St Mary's in the drive to raise the attainment of all students, particularly those in receipt of Pupil Premium and those from 'Just About Managing' families. Last year, we strengthened further the leadership of pastoral care within the main school through the appointment of key stage leaders for all three key stages. They now provide leadership responsibility for pastoral provision within their respective key stage, which includes heads of year. We have very high standards in relation to behaviour, attendance, and punctuality, and intervene swiftly when these standards are not being met. Closing any gap in punctuality and attendance between our Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium students is a specific focus.

Cost: £26,000

5. Additional Learning Support Assistants

Learning support assistants play a vital role in raising achievement across the school. By giving one-to-one support during lessons and ensuring that key concepts are firmly grasped and knowledge and understanding is consolidated, learning support assistants offer essential support to those teachers who work with our most vulnerable and

disadvantaged pupils. What is more, learning support assistants also provide one-to-one guidance for pupils on the early morning Fresh Start literacy programme. The Pupil Premium Grant allows us to employ two extra learning support assistants.

Cost: £35,000

6. Financial Support for Enrichment

All pupils are encouraged and given opportunities to extend their learning and achieve outside the classroom. Pupil Premium funds have allowed the school to subsidise a range of activities for disadvantaged students, including residential trips in the UK and abroad, and diocesan residential retreats. We also subsidise music lessons and subsidise the purchase of musical instruments for our most disadvantaged students. At St Mary's, we insist that social disadvantage is not a barrier to full participation in extra-curricular activity.

Cost: £12,000

7. General Financial Support

At St Mary's, we support our pupils in whatever way we can. Pupil Premium funds have also been used to subsidise uniform and general school equipment, such as stationery and PE kit.

Cost: £3,048

Pupil Premium Review

In June 2021, the St. Mary's Catholic School Pupil Premium Programme was reviewed against various other similar programmes in schools in the Bishop Bewick Trust, and other outstanding schools in the North East. This was to ensure the strategies provided are the most effective for supporting our disadvantaged pupils.

These schools included St Thomas More Roman Catholic Academy, Sacred Heart Catholic High School, St Cuthbert's High School and Carmel College.

Findings

All schools have similar provisions in place to that found at St. Mary's. All schools surveyed, including St. Mary's are committed to ensuring the highest standards of care for all disadvantaged pupils with bespoke support in literacy, pastoral guidance and mentorship, enhancement of cultural capital, further extra-curricular opportunities, action in preventing deprivation, and ways of developing academic aspiration. The majority of strategies implemented with Pupil Premium funding was consistent across all schools surveyed and indicated that at St. Mary's all students are provided with schemes and resources which have a maximum impact on pupil progress and learning.

Whilst there are areas for development, which will be advanced in 2021-2022, the provision provided by the school is in line with similar schools in the surrounding area and provides a comprehensive and robust support programme for our disadvantaged students to ensure deprivation does not hinder their holistic development during their time at St. Mary's.

Please see Action Plan for 2021-2022 on separate document.