# Pupil premium strategy statement – NCEA Grace Darling C of E Primary School

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.

## School overview

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| Detail | Data |
| Number of pupils in school | 402 |
| Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils | 50.8% (Rec-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)** | 2024 - 2027 |
| Date this statement was published | January 2025 |
| Date on which it will be reviewed | December 2025 |
| Statement authorised by |  |
| Pupil premium lead | Sharon Cole |
| Governor / Trustee lead | Sharon Cole |

## Funding overview

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| **Detail** | **Amount** |
| Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year | £256,040 (173/368) |
| 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* | ££256,040 |

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

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| NCEA Grace Darling Primary School is located in the heart of the community in the former mining and fishing town of Newbiggin by the Sea. We serve the wards of Newbiggin Central and East and Seaton with Newbiggin West and have on site provision for children from 2-11. Our school is committed to providing all children, regardless of their background, with the best possible educational experience. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive academically and socially. Our pupil premium funding is essential in helping to close the attainment gap, ensuring that children who are disadvantaged have access to the support and encouragement they need to reach their full potential.*At Grace Darling, we are a family. Grace Darling Primary School is a place where children are safe, happy and successful. Our school is a place where children feel safe to be themselves, to follow their dreams and achieve success. Like in St. Paul’s Gospel, everyone in our community is encouraged to “Let all that you do be done in love”. With this as our guiding principle, children are nurtured and supported to live life to the fullest and confidently take up their places in society. Following the Trust’s core values of Love, Inclusivity, Goodness, Hope and Truth, we encourage every child to “Let their light shine”.*Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the children of this community. It is coherently planned and sequenced to ensure that the knowledge and skills required to succeed in each subject, at each stage, are clearly defined.Our carefully crafted lines of enquiry are designed to stir up curiosity and promote discussion and questioning. Children are encouraged to explore the history and geography of the local area as well as venturing further afield to explore the wider world. They feel safe to explore new things.The children are encouraged to explore the world through reading and to build their vocabulary so that they can communicate successfully in a range of contexts.With these foundations, starting in our 2-year old provision and continuing as the children journey through to year 6, it is our intention that the children will achieve our vision for them and go on to confidently take up their places in society and live happily, healthily and successfully.Our strategy is based on high-quality teaching and assessment, where knowledge gaps are identified quickly and strategies enable children to catch up to age related expectations. In addition to this strategy in classrooms, additional small group tuition will be provided for identified pupils, supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. Further support for children to improve emotional wellbeing and remove barriers for engagement will also be in place in order to ensure that all children are able to fully engage in all areas of school life. |

## Challenges

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

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| Challenge number | Detail of challenge  |
| 1 | 1. **Challenge: High absence rates**
2. Absence rates are higher than those nationally
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| 2 | **Challenge: Low on-entry data**At the start of their educational journey, a significant proportion of our pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium grant enter school with very low levels of development in key areas such as language, literacy, and numeracy. These children often have limited access to early educational experiences outside of school, which contributes to gaps in their knowledge and skills.  |
| 3 | **Challenge: Increasing SEMH needs**Social and emotional well- being, managing self and self-regulation require a high level of support across the school, but particularly in EYFS. Disadvantaged children require more of this support. We have an increased number of children on a pathway for diagnosis. |
| 4 | **Challenge: Limited exposure to cultural opportunity**Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds often face barriers that prevent them from accessing a wide range of cultural experiences, including school trips, visits, and extracurricular activities. These opportunities are essential for broadening pupils’ horizons, developing their interests and talents, and supporting their overall personal development. |
| 5 | **Challenge: Increasing numbers of children who are disadvantaged and have SEND**An increasing number of pupils at our school come from disadvantaged backgrounds and also have high levels of Special Educational Needs (SEN). These pupils face multiple barriers to learning, and we are committed to providing them with the tailored support they need to succeed. |

## 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.

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| Intended outcome | Success criteria |
| 1. Absence rates will reduce, comparable to national benchmarks for both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.
 | The rate of absence for disadvantaged pupils will reduce with PA also decreasing in the long term.  |
| 1. Increased number of children reaching GLD at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

(September 2024 Nursery baseline shows 0% of disadvantaged children are on track against a low baseline of 4.2% for non-disadvantaged children) | An increased number of children will achieve a Good Level of Development which will enable them to access the formal curriculum and be successful.  |
| 1. Children’s social and emotional well- being will be supported through a series of specific initiatives through a holistic approach which is underpinned by Thrive principles. (Thrive practitioner sessions, Thrive and Shine, Thrive and Dine, Nurture Group, sensory support etc)

. | Sustained higher levels of wellbeing shown in pupil voice and pupil engagement. Children in targeted groups will demonstrate improved academic outcomes as a result of increased SEMH support.Progress seen in Thrive sessions |
| 1. Equity of Opportunity: All pupils, regardless of their background, should have equal access to cultural, extracurricular, and enrichment opportunities.
 | Disadvantaged pupils will access the full range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer  |
| 1. Children with multiple barriers to learning are flourishing.
 | Evidence from IEPS which shows the progress of PP pupils with SEN in achieving their individualized goals, both academic and personal. |

## Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

### Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £56,040

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Professional Development: Investing in staff training to ensure that teachers and support staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to work effectively with disadvantaged children (Internal and external CPD programme and coaching)ie. Fast-track tutoring, precision teaching, ASD  | ‘The evidence indicates that explicitly teaching strategies to help plan, monitor and evaluate specific aspects of their learning can be effective’‘These approaches are more effective when they are applied to challenging tasks rooted in the usual curriculum content.’[Link to evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/metacognition-and-self-regulation) | 2, 3, 5 |

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

Budgeted cost: £*130,000*

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Early Intervention: We will ensure that resources and support are in place early in the child's education to prevent gaps in learning from widening. | 1. ‘Language provides the foundation of thinking and learning and should be prioritised.’
2. [Link to evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-early-years)

‘It is important to give feedback when things are correct – not just when they are incorrect. High-quality feedback may focus on a task, subject, andself-regulation strategies.’[Link to evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/feedback) | 2, 3, 5 |
| Small group tuition: targeted support outside of the classroom but designed in collaboration with the class teacher. | ‘Small group tuition has an average impact of four months’ additional progress over the course of a year.’[Link to evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition) | 2, 3, 5 |
| Personalized Support: Tailoring interventions to the specific needs of individual pupils, ensuring that each child receives the support they need. | ‘The evidence indicates that explicitly teaching strategies to help plan, monitor and evaluate specific aspects of their learning can be effective’‘These approaches are more effective when they are applied to challenging tasks rooted in the usual curriculum content.’[Link to evidence](https://www.ncetm.org.uk/media/2ljdu4kh/ncetm_primary_teachingformastery_report_july2019.pdf) | 2, 3, 5 |

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

Budgeted cost: £70,000

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| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Clear, efficient attendance tracking system for monitoring student attendance. | ‘Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education.’[Link to evidence](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf) | 1 |
| Regular analysis of attendance data. | See above | 1 |
| A structured, tiered approach to attendance interventions which is responsive, supportive, and specific to the needs of individual students and their families. | See above | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Raising the profile of school attendance with children and parents.  | ‘Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils including their safeguarding and welfare and should therefore be seen as everyone’s responsibility in school.’<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance> | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Thrive practitioner in school providing 1:1, small group and responsive support  | ‘Establish school-wide norms, expectations and routines that support children’s social and emotional development.’[Link to evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel) | 1, 2, 3, 5 |
| Subsidizing school trips and visits, supporting extra-curricular activities, covering transport costs, encouraging parental involvement.  | ‘There is some evidence that involvement in extra-curricular sporting activities may increase pupil attendance and retention.’[evidence](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/physical-activity) | 4 |

**Total budgeted cost: £256,040**

# Part B: Review of the previous academic year

## Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

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| *Outline the performance of your disadvantaged pupils in the previous academic year and explain how it has been assessed. You should draw on:** *Data from the previous academic year’s national assessments and qualifications, once published.*
* *Comparison to local and national averages and outcomes achieved by your school’s non-disadvantaged pupils (a note of caution can be added to signal that pupils included in the performance data will have experienced some disruption due to Covid-19 earlier in their schooling, which will have affected individual pupils and schools differently).*
* *Information from summative and formative assessments the school has undertaken.*
* *School data and observations used to assess wider issues impacting*

*disadvantaged pupils’ performance, including attendance, behaviour and* *wellbeing**You should state whether you are on target to achieve the outcomes of your strategy (as outlined in the Intended Outcomes section above) and outline your analysis of what aspects of your strategy are/are not working well.* *If last year marked the end of a previous pupil premium strategy plan, you should set out your assessment of how successfully the intended outcomes of that plan were met.* |

## Externally provided programmes

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

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| Programme | Provider |
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## Service pupil premium funding (optional)

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| *For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:* **How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year** |
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| **The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils** |
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# Further information (optional)

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| *Use this space to provide any further information about your pupil premium strategy. For example, about your strategy planning, implementation and evaluation, or other activity that you are delivering to support disadvantaged pupils that is not dependent on pupil premium funding.* |