

Pupil premium strategy statement – Iron Acton CEVC Primary School

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery 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

Detail	Data
School name	Iron Acton Primary
Number of pupils in school	99
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	19%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2025/2026 – 2028/2029
Date this statement was published	December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Mike Riches, Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Sarah Bagnall
Governor/Trustee lead	Julie Gardener

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£30,650
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	£30,650

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

High-quality 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.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, which are carefully considered and approaches adapted to meet need on an ongoing basis. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- act early to intervene at the point need is identified
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate under-developed 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.
2	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as early readers.

3	<p>Internal and external (where available) assessments indicate that reading, writing and maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is on average below that of non-disadvantaged pupils and this is particularly true of writing.</p> <p>On entry to Reception class in the last 7 years, a higher proportion of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to other pupils. There is a strong correlation between those who are disadvantaged and those who receive SEND support or have an EHCP.</p>
4	<p>Observations and discussions with pupils and families indicates that disadvantaged pupils have access to fewer experiences and opportunities when compared to non-disadvantaged pupils.</p>
5	<p>Our attendance data over the last 3 years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been approximately 4% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Over the last 3 years up to 20% of disadvantaged pupils have been 'persistently absent' compared to less than 9% of their peers during that period. Our assessments and observations indicate that absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.</p>

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
Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments (where appropriate, including: Speech and Language screener; articulation screener; EYFS profile; EYFS baseline) and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
Improved early reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	<p>All disadvantaged pupils achieve the expected standard in the Y1 phonics screening check.</p> <p>Internal tracking systems show that there is an increase in the proportion of children who achieve age related expectations and above in reading in all year groups.</p>
Improved reading, writing and maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	Internal tracking systems show that there is an increase in the proportion of children who achieve age related expectations and above in reading, writing and maths in all year groups.

<p>To use wider and enriching cultural capital to improve language vocabulary and overall attainment in reading, writing and maths.</p>	<p>Improved combined attainment in oracy and reading, writing and maths.</p> <p>Internal tracking systems show that there is an increase in the proportion of children who achieve age related expectations and above in reading, writing and maths in all year groups.</p> <p>Pupil conferencing shows disadvantaged pupils know more and remember more through wider experiences and increased participation in enrichment activities.</p>
<p>To achieve and sustain improved attendance for disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>Sustained high attendance demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 4%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 4% so that it is in line with all pupils. • The percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent (below 90%) being below 5% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils reducing over time so that it is in line with all pupils.

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: £8,950

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Subscribe to a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme and resources to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.</p> <p>£250</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>	<p>2 3</p>
<p>Phonics Lead coaching for those supporting early reading to ensure all staff have the necessary pedagogical skills and content knowledge.</p> <p>£5,000</p>	<p>Close monitoring of phonics ensure a consistent approach, ensuring lessons engage pupils. Learning is checked to identify any difficulties to focus teaching and interventions.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics</p>	<p>2 3</p>
<p>Training, including effective feedback to pupils.</p> <p>Developing and delivering a high-quality writing curriculum.</p> <p>Moderation of individual children for writing with English specialist to aid identification of specific barriers and next steps to accelerate progress.</p>	<p>Promoting effective professional development plays a crucial role in improving classroom practice and pupil outcomes. Research tells us that high quality teaching can narrow the disadvantage gap.</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/eef-guidance-reports/effective-professional-development/EEF-Effective-Professional-Development-Guidance-Report.pdf</p>	<p>1-3</p>

£3,500		
S&L training to ensure those supporting children with speech and language needs have relevant knowledge and techniques. £200	Professional development effectively builds knowledge, motivates staff, develops teaching techniques, and embeds practice. Professional development takes into account the needs of the school. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/effective-professional-development	1

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

Budgeted cost: £14,500

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
EYFS and Year 1 speech and language screening; implementation of focused 1:1 S&L interventions in all year groups. £2,000	Some pupils may struggle specifically with spoken language. Schools should consider how they will identify pupils that need additional support around oral language and articulation. It may be helpful to focus on speaking and listening activities separately where needed to meet particular needs. The studies in the EEF Toolkit indicate that language interventions with frequent sessions over a sustained period may have a larger impact, overall. Approaches that are delivered one-to-one also have larger impacts. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/oral-language-interventions https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-ks-1	1
Specialist support from ELSA and sand tray therapist by trained TAs to support and develop emotional literacy strategies. To develop emotionally resilient children who respond well to challenging social situations.	Evidence from the EEF's Teaching and Learning Toolkit suggests that effective SEL can lead to learning gains of +4 months over the course of a year. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel	1-3 5

£4,000		
Responsive interventions £2,000	Assessments are used to identify appropriate pupils, to guide areas for focus and monitor impact of the responsive intervention. Explicit connections are made between learning from everyday classroom and teaching structured interventions. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/teaching-assistants	2 & 3
Targeted phonics interventions for the lowest 20%. £2,000	Use of accurate assessment of capabilities and difficulties to ensure interventions are appropriately matched to pupils needs. Regular review of children's progress whilst they are part of the intervention to track progress and ensure the support enhances their learning. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics	1 & 2
Targeted regular reading practise with a trained reading assistant to support fluency and accuracy in early reading. £4,500	Use of a range of approaches as part of regular practise to support implementation of systematic phonics programme which develops decoding and comprehension skills. https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/eef-guidance-reports/literacy-ks-1/Literacy_KS1_Guidance_Report_2020.pdf	1 – 3

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

Budgeted cost: £7,200

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
All children to have access to music opportunities through whole class Music Explorers instrument lessons and all pupil premium children to have access to individual or small group instrument or voice tuition.	The average impact of arts participation on other areas of academic learning is positive but moderate, about an additional three months. Improved outcomes have been identified in English, mathematics and science. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/arts-participation	1 & 4

£1500		
<p>Enable all children to access a range of educational visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum and to develop important skills such as confidence, independence and problem solving.</p> <p>£3500 for subsidies £2000 for coaches</p>	<p>Arts participation may be delivered within the core curriculum, or through extra-curricular or cultural trips which can be subject to financial barriers for pupils from deprived backgrounds.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/arts-participation</p>	1 & 4
<p>Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Improving School Attendance advice.</p>	<p>The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.</p>	5
<p>Contingency fund for acute issues.</p> <p>£200</p>	<p>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.</p>	All

Total budgeted cost: £30,650

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 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Our internal assessments during 2024/25 suggested that the overall performance of disadvantaged pupils was slightly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils as a cohort but that progress was strong and there are clear examples of children catching up over time.

Absence among disadvantaged pupils was 4% higher than for their peers. This gap is stable compared to the previous year and has reduced since its peak during Covid-19. The proportion of pupils who were persistently absent was 15.1% higher than for their peers which has reduced since its peak during Covid-19.

Our assessments and observations indicate that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were considerably impacted last year, primarily due to the impact of family related pressures and cost of living related issues. The impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged pupils. We used pupil premium funding to provide small group and individual wellbeing and academic support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We also trained a sand tray therapist to provide additional support for social and emotional needs.

From discussions with families, it is clear that disadvantaged pupils are less likely to take part in enriching activities which are designed to impact positively upon cultural capital, learning skills and overall academic achievement and so this was a focus for our strategy once again during the last academic year.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
N/A	

Service pupil premium funding

How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year

Individual music lessons were provided to promote positive wellbeing and to develop expertise in this area of the curriculum.

The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils

Broader curriculum experience.

Further information

Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:

- researching and embedding more effective practice around feedback and meta-cognition. [EEF evidence](#) demonstrates this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- utilising a [DfE grant to train a senior mental health lead](#). The training we have selected will focus on the training needs identified through the online tool: to develop our understanding of our pupils' needs, give pupils a voice in how we address wellbeing, and support more effective collaboration with parents.
- offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration. Activities will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising. Disadvantaged pupils will be encouraged and supported to participate.