



Excalibur Academies Trust
Pupil Premium Statement

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Approved by: CEO

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What is the Pupil Premium?

Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. Evidence shows that disadvantaged children generally face additional challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as other pupils.

Background

The Pupil Premium targets extra funding for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows these pupils underachieve compared to their peers. The premium is provided in order to support disadvantaged groups of pupils to reach their potential. The Government uses the following eligibility criteria for pupil premium funding allocations:

- *Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years (including eligible children of families with no recourse to public funds)*
- *Pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care*
- *Children who are looked after by the local authority*

The Government has not dictated to schools how to spend this money, school leaders can decide on which activities to spend their pupil premium (and recovery premium)

It is recommended that schools use the framework set out by the 'menu of approaches'

The menu is designed to help schools use their funding effectively to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

The format of the menu reflects evidence suggesting that pupil premium spending is most effective when used across 3 areas:

1. High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
2. Targeted academic support, such as tutoring
3. Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) recommends that schools particularly focus their pupil premium on supporting high-quality teaching.

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools are not required to spend all of their allocated grant on eligible pupils.

Policy Statement

All members of staff, governors, the Trust Central Team and Board accept responsibility for disadvantaged pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within a supportive environment. As with every child in our care, a child who is considered to be disadvantaged is valued, respected and entitled to develop their full potential, irrespective of need.

The Trust is funded for a large number of Pupil Premium students. The number of pupils in each school is highly variable. Each school has determination and oversight of their own Pupil Premium spend. Whilst some of these funds are directed towards distinct interventions, the majority of the pupil premium grant is targeted to ensure the highest quality of teaching for these pupils.



The strategic leadership team of each school will maintain an on-going programme of support and monitoring for children and young people eligible for Pupil Premium support. This programme will be subject to oversight from the Academy Committee and the Trust Board.

All staff have a responsibility in providing the best possible provision for young people. In doing so they have a responsibility to monitor progress and adapt planning and teaching to ensure these students maximize their progress. It should be noted there is no substitute for high quality classroom teaching.

All Excalibur schools adopt the DfE recommended '5 step guide' to developing an effective pupil premium strategy. These steps include:

1. To identify the specific challenges faced by your disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils
2. To use evidence to identify appropriate and effective responses
3. To develop a plan for using your pupil premium to maximum effect
4. To implement your plan
5. To evaluate and sustain your strategy

Reporting

It is the responsibility of the Principal of each school (or the designated member of staff) to publish an annual strategy statement using the DfE template.

This template includes:

- School overview
- Funding overview
- Statement of intent
- Challenges
- Intended outcomes
- Activities in the academic year
- Review of previous academic year

The appointed Inclusion Lead for Pupil Premium will in collaboration with each school's Principal, ensuring that each school publishes their Pupil Premium strategy statement on the school's website by the specified date (currently December 31st each academic year).

The Head of Strategic Development will report to the board that all schools are compliant regarding their websites in December of each year.

Barriers to learning

The Trust has identified a number of barriers to learning which need to be overcome in order for all children and young people to make progress and succeed. The key areas the Trust have focused their schools and training around are –

- Literacy
- Speech and language development
- Emotional and behavioural development and support
- Attendance and punctuality
- Resilience and high aspirations



- Special Educational Needs – a high proportion of pupil premium pupils are also identified as SEN

Whole Trust pupil premium reviews and impact assessments at school and Trust level indicate that this early focus is proving successful with key gaps between pupil premium pupils and those nationally being overcome and/or closing rapidly.