



Pupil premium strategy statement

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 effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Ightham Primary School
Number of pupils in school	207
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	4.3%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2025/26 - 2028/9
Date this statement was published	26 th November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	November 2026
Statement authorised by	Sue Earl (Headteacher)
Pupil Premium lead	Sue Earl (Headteacher)
Governor / Trustee lead	Moyra Pickering (Lead for Pupil Premium)

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£19,610
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	£19,610

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

At Ightham Primary School, we have high expectations and ambitions for all of our pupils including those eligible for pupil premium funding. We aim to ensure all children, including those that are disadvantaged, 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.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker or are young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not. Our strategy is integral to wider school plans for education recovery.

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.

We use a variety of tools to assess secure learning, from commercially bought packages such as PIRA, PUMA and GAPS tests, to our own internally developed assessment tools. The focus is on what knowledge has been retained by our pupils.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. 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 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.
2	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics and spelling than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers.
3	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with writing than their peers.
4	Our assessments (including wellbeing surveys), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional issues for a few pupils. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment.
5	We aim to further raise our attendance levels and aim for an excellent level of attendance for all disadvantaged children to ensure they are more likely to make the best possible progress.

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 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 reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 100% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved writing attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 writing outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 33% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from pupil voice, pupil and parent surveys and teacher observations • a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 4% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 1% lower than their peers.

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: £10,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Addition of resources to our DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme , Essential Letters and Sounds, to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.	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: Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	2
Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning. SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.	There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers): EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	4
Providing cover time for teachers to undertake professional development	Managing workload and offering effective professional development are key to retaining great teachers, which, in turn, is crucial to maintaining a high standard of teaching and learning.	1,2,3,4
Technology and other resources that support high	To improve learning, schools should consider	1,2,3

quality teaching, for example software to support diagnostic assessment.	the specific barriers technology is addressing, particularly for disadvantaged students, and use technology in a way that is informed by effective pedagogy.	
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £8,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Targeted oral language interventions in EYFS and Key Stage 1. These can support pupils to articulate key ideas, consolidate understanding and extend vocabulary.	There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are inexpensive to implement with high impacts on reading: Oral language interventions Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1
Targeted reading and writing interventions in Key Stage 2.	Teaching assistants can provide a large positive impact on learner outcomes, however, how they are deployed is key. Research which focuses on teaching assistants who provide one to one or small group targeted interventions shows a stronger positive benefit of between four and six additional months on average. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions	2, 3

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

Budgeted cost: £2,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
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<p>Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's 'Working Together to Support School Attendance' https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendanceadvice.</p> <p>This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures and appointing attendance/support officers to improve attendance.</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>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: £20,000

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 2024-25 academic year.

Our internal assessments during 2024/25 suggested that the performance of disadvantaged pupils was similar to previous years in key areas of the curriculum. It should be noted that the school has very few pupil premium children. Data is therefore easily skewed given the relatively small numbers of children.

A new SENCO started in January 2025 and she has organised high quality CPD for class-based staff throughout the year. The impact of this CPD should be further seen in 2025-26.

Overall attendance in 2024/25 was 96.6% which is above national. Disadvantaged children had a higher overall attendance at 94.9%.

Our assessments and observations indicated that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were not significantly impacted last year. We used pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We are building on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.

Over the year the children have accessed various extracurricular activities which have promoted engagement in the curriculum and broadened experiences for all pupils. With the cost of living crisis affecting the community, we will continue to provide support to ensure disadvantaged children having similar opportunities to access learning outside the classroom, educational visits and residential trips will increase of self-esteem and confidence and have a powerful impact on learning and development.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England

Programme	Provider
N/A	N/A

Further information (optional)

Additional activity

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

- offering counselling sessions for those children that are most in need.
- offering draw-and-talk sessions with our qualified FLO.
- offering talk-time sessions with our FLO.
- 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.

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

We triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, engagement in class book scrutiny, conversations with parents, students and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils. We also used the EEF's families of schools database to view the performance of disadvantaged pupils in schools similar to ours.

We looked at a number of reports, studies and research papers about effective use of pupil premium, the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.

We used the [EEF's implementation guidance](#) to help us develop our strategy, particularly the 'explore' phase to help us diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.

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.