



"Choose the Right Path"

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Pupil Premium Policy

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Date:	7 th October 2026
Review date ² :	September 2028

Aims

This policy provides information about the purpose of the Pupil Premium, identifies eligible pupils, outlines how funding is allocated, and clarifies the responsibilities of leaders, governors and staff.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based upon the DfE Pupil Premium Allocations and Conditions of Grant 2026–2027, DfE guidance on disadvantaged pupils, Virtual School Head responsibilities and the Education Endowment Foundation guidance on effective use of Pupil Premium funding.

Purpose of the Grant

The Pupil Premium is additional funding provided by the government to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and reduce educational disadvantage. Funding is intended to improve academic achievement, attendance, wellbeing, participation and life chances.

Use of the Grant

At St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School we believe that disadvantage is not a fixed characteristic. We are committed to ensuring every child can flourish and achieve highly through evidence-informed practice and effective support.

High-Quality Teaching

- Staff professional development
- Curriculum development
- Adaptive teaching and inclusion
- High-quality assessment and feedback
- Evidence-informed classroom practice

Targeted Academic Support

- Early language and communication programmes
- Additional phonics and reading support
- Small-group and one-to-one interventions
- Targeted mathematics support
- Pre-teaching and precision teaching approaches

Wider Strategies and Expanded Opportunities

- Attendance and punctuality support

- SEMH and pastoral provision
- Breakfast club access
- Educational visits and enrichment
- Extra-curricular clubs and cultural experiences
- Resources, books and technology
- Support to remove financial barriers to participation

Working in Partnership with Families

We work closely with parents and carers to identify barriers to learning and agree the most effective support. Decisions are informed by assessment information, pupil needs, parental views and regular evaluation of impact.

Eligible Pupils

Funding may be allocated for Ever 6 Free School Meal pupils, pupils eligible through No Recourse to Public Funds criteria, looked-after children, previously looked-after children and eligible service children, subject to DfE conditions of grant.

Applying for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Parents and carers who believe they may be eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals should apply through Cumberland Council or seek support from the school office. Applications are treated confidentially.

- Additional funding to support learning and wellbeing
- Access to targeted academic interventions
- Support for trips, visits and enrichment opportunities
- Additional resources and equipment
- Support with wider participation in school life

Parents are encouraged to register even if their child already receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, as this allows the school to receive valuable additional funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will oversee strategy, monitor impact, publish the annual strategy statement and ensure effective use of funding.

Governors will provide challenge and support, monitor outcomes and ensure value for money.

All staff are responsible for maintaining high expectations and contributing to improved outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of Pupil Premium expenditure will be evaluated through pupil progress data, attendance information, participation measures, pupil voice, parental feedback and ongoing review of interventions. Governors will receive regular updates on the impact of spending.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if changes to legislation or guidance require amendment.