

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium 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	St Faith & St Martin CE Junior School
Number of pupils in school	353
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	23%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2025/2026 to 2028/2029
Date this statement was published	November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	November 2026
Statement authorised by	Martin Kyle, Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Sarah Charlton, Deputy Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Muhammad Shahid, lead for disadvantaged pupils

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£113,625
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	£113,625

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 strong 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 recognise that the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and rising levels of child poverty are having a significant impact on many of our pupils. Children eligible for Free School Meals are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, limited access to enrichment opportunities, and increased emotional and mental health pressures. These factors can hinder their ability to engage fully in learning and achieve their potential.

We also consider the needs of vulnerable pupils, such as those with a social worker, young carers, and those experiencing housing instability or mental health challenges. The activities outlined in this statement are designed to support these pupils, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

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 strategy is rooted in robust diagnostic assessment and a deep understanding of individual needs, rather than assumptions about disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted are complementary and designed 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;
- promote strong attendance and engagement through inclusive and supportive practices.

This strategy aligns with our wider school improvement plans and reflects our commitment to equity, excellence, and opportunity for all.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Internal and external assessments indicate that reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils is significantly below that of non-disadvantaged pupils. Our observations suggest that disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers.</p> <p>On entry to Y3 class, 47% of our disadvantaged pupils arrive below age-related expectations compared to 15% of other pupils. This gap needs to be addressed on their journey through KS2.</p>
2	<p>Our observations indicate that many of our disadvantaged families have experienced social and emotional issues which can impact on a child's concentration, motivation and academic attainment.</p>
3	<p>Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified that some of our pupils have limited experiences outside of the home and the usual school day.</p> <p>The opportunity for enrichment supports children to explore their individual interests and talents, build meaningful relationships with trusted adults and peers, and most importantly, develop essential skills for their future life and work.</p>
4	<p>Nationally last year, attendance for all disadvantaged pupils was 91.5% - this is lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. We must ensure our disadvantaged pupils attend school regularly.</p> <p>Absenteeism can negatively impact 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 reading attainment among disadvantaged pupils.	KS2 reading outcomes in 2028/29 (and subsequent years) show that more than 70% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard.
Improved enrichment opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to broaden their experiences.	Sustained high levels of attendance to extra-curricular clubs from 2025/26.

<p>To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2025/26 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations • a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils.
<p>To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>Sustained high attendance from 2025/26 (and subsequent years) demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 5%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 1%. • the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 10% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 5% 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: **£76,152**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments.</p> <p>Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted and administered correctly.</p>	<p>Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction:</p> <p>Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	1,4
<p>Subscription to a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils.</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>	1
<p>Whole staff training on phonics and reading fluency approaches with the aim of developing our school ethos and further improving reading skills and staff subject knowledge to support struggling readers.</p>	<p>Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects:</p> <p>Behaviour interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	1
<p>Further enhancement of our reading teaching (with a focus on reading fluency) in line with EEF guidance.</p> <p>We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in</p>	<p>The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence:</p>	1

school and to access English Hub resources.	Reading Improving Literacy at KS2 Education Endowment Foundation EEF	
<p>Improve the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning.</p> <p>SEL approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff.</p>	<p>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). We will look to continue to invest in our SEL scheme 'Jigsaw' and support all staff with training to improve our SEL whole school approach:</p> <p>EEF Social and Emotional Learning.pdf(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	2,4

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

Budgeted cost: £19,467

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support.	<p>Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks:</p> <p>Phonics Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	1
Engaging with the Reading Fluency Project (in collaboration with the English Hub) to improve reading comprehension and attainment. A significant proportion of the pupils who	<p>Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind:</p> <p>Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	1

receive tutoring will be disadvantaged.	HFL Education Reading Fluency Project EEF	
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £18,006

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Supporting the attendance to extra-curricular clubs through targeted invitation to our disadvantaged pupils who will receive priority booking, free-of-charge to attend at least one club per term.	Attending extra-curricular clubs can help develop important skills like self-regulation and social-emotional learning, which can lead to better performance in and out of the classroom: The EEF Guide to Pupil Premium Education Endowment Fund September 2025	2,3,4
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Working together to improve attendance advice. This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement new procedures and providing time for attendance/support officers to improve attendance. It will also include the cost of attendance to our breakfast club and after school club to support attendance of targeted pupils.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.	4
Contingency fund for acute issues.	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.	All

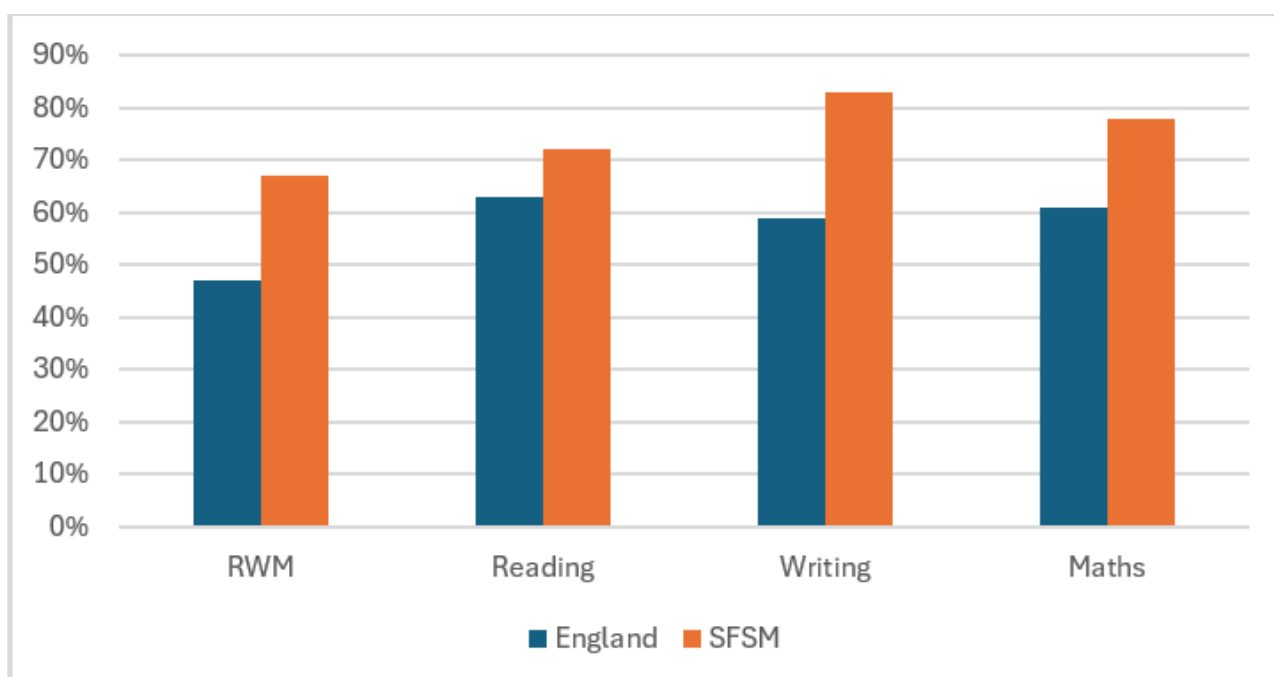
Total budgeted cost: £113,625

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 KS2 SATS assessments during 2024/25 showed that the performance of disadvantaged pupils was higher than the national data for this group in all areas. This shows the positive impact of the school's approach to supporting disadvantaged pupils.



Our assessment of the reasons for these outcomes points primarily to effective use of the pupil premium targeted at supporting more disadvantaged pupils to meet the required standard for secondary school.

Nationally, the 2024/25 attendance figure for disadvantaged pupils was 92.6%. The attendance figure for our disadvantaged pupils was higher than this national average at 93.8%.

We continue to use pupil premium funding to provide well-being support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We are building on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
N/A	

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	<p>We employ a Pastoral Lead dedicated to the emotional wellbeing of service children. They help pupils create 'still photo books' and 'talking photo books' to stay connected to their deployed parent, and a memory box for if they move schools.</p> <p>We identified gaps in service children's education caused by moving between schools which we addressed with targeted support.</p>
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils?	<p>Teachers observed improvements in wellbeing amongst service children. Assessments demonstrated progress in subject areas where extra support was provided.</p>

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:

- embedding more effective practice around feedback. [EEF evidence](#) demonstrates this has significant benefits for pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils.
- Developing further the role of the pastoral lead who achieved the [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.

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, 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 and visited outstanding junior schools with high-performing pupils to learn from their approach.

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.