# **St James' Catholic Primary School**



# **Pupil Premium Strategy Statement 2024/25**

This statement details our school's use of pupil 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	Current Data
School name	St James' Catholic Primary School
Number of pupils in school	183 pupils and 17 Nursery pupils
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	62.2 % excluding Nursery 52.9% of pupils in Nursery receive EYPPG National Average 24.6% (2023/24)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2024/25
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Statement authorised by	Mr M. Woolley
Pupil premium lead	Miss C. Bostock
Governor / Trustee lead	Mr K. Toms

### **Funding overview**

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£134,220
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	NIL
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	NIL
Total budget for this academic year	£134,220

## Part A: Pupil Premium Strategy Plan

#### Statement of intent

At St James' Catholic Primary School, our ethos is centred around our Mission Statement 'Together we are learning to follow Jesus'. Our intention is that all pupils achieve their full potential and make good use of their God given talents. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal and ensure that they receive the highest quality of education, enabling them to develop into well adjusted, active and socially responsible citizens of the future. We strive to ensure that our children feel happy, secure, included and valued. We want our pupils to receive a skills and knowledge based curriculum, matched to their needs.

We are committed to serving our community to provide the best possible education for our children and their families. Our pupil premium is used for the benefit of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils. We recognise that not all pupils eligible for free school meals will be socially disadvantaged. Conversely, we also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged qualify for free school meals. It is always our intention to allocate funding to any pupil or groups of pupils that we identify as being socially disadvantaged.

#### **Ultimate Goals**

High quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus upon the areas in which our disadvantaged pupils require the most support.

- Continue to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.
- For all disadvantaged pupils to exceed nationally expected progress rates to reach age related expectations (ARE) at the end of Year 6, and thus achieve GCSE's in English and Maths.
- Remove barriers to learning created by poverty, family circumstances and background
- Provide pupils with tools and strategies to take care of their own social and emotional wellbeing and to develop resilience.
- Ensure all pupils are able to read fluently and with good understanding, allowing them to access all areas of the curriculum.
- Close the gap in Maths between disadvantaged pupils and both national disadvantaged and national nondisadvantaged pupils.
- To increase the percentage of all pupils achieving ARE and greater depth in maths, reading and writing at the end of Year 6.
- Improve attendance of all disadvantaged pupils.
- Foster a thirst for knowledge and instil aspiration.

# **Challenges**

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Weak language and communication skills.  Assessments and observations continue to indicate under developed oral language and vocabulary gaps among many of our disadvantaged pupils as well as our non-disadvantaged pupils. Therefore, there is an increased demand for additional provision for those pupils who have speech, language and communication barriers particularly in Early Years and Key Stage One.
2	Low starting points on entry to the Early Years Foundation Stage in all areas  Baseline assessments indicated that approximately half of all Early Years pupils were working in lower bands of the prime areas of development.
3	School data indicates few pupils achieving greater depth in Maths and Reading.
4	Mental health and wellbeing There has been a marked increase in the number of pupil referrals for pastoral support and Early Help Assessments.
5	Attendance and punctuality issues. Our attendance data for the past three years shows a decrease in attendance of all pupils. Despite support from our Pastoral Manager and interventions put in place by the Education and Welfare Officer, there are still a small percentage of pupils who are persistently absent.
<u>6</u>	Parental Engagement Since Covid school closures, parental engagement continues to be lower than was previously which has impacted upon the progress of many pupils. These findings are supported by national studies.

## **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 oracy, language and vocabulary skills among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments show that speech and language interventions are significantly improving the oral language and vocabulary of disadvantaged pupils.
Continued high quality provision in EYFS	The progress of all disadvantaged pupils in Early Years is tracked and interventions are in place to enable them to achieve a good level of development. Increase the number of pupils achieving a good level of development from 48% to 60.0% to support their transition to Key Stage 1.
To increase the number of pupils achieving ARE and Greater Depth in Reading and Maths through high quality teaching and closely monitored intervention groups	All pupils achieve in line with or above national average progress scores in reading and writing at the end of KS2.
To address the social, emotional and mental health needs of those pupils who are at risk of underachieving.  To ensure all children, particularly our disadvantaged pupils, have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive now and in the future.	All pupils access 'My Happy Mind' PSHE programme throughout all key stages. School has a trained Art therapist, grief recovery and Lego therapist. TA to support the range of emotional needs.

	Pastoral Manager to provide targeted support to all pupils who have been identified as requiring additional provision to support their social and emotional wellbeing.  Attainment and progress will improve through greater motivation and self-learning.
To improve the attendance and punctuality of all disadvantaged pupils	Attendance of disadvantaged pupils is at least 96% in line with their peers and there is a decrease in the number of pupils arriving late for school.
To increase parental engagement and provide opportunities for parents to support their children with home learning.	Increased opportunities for parents to engage with their children's learning e.g. welcome meetings, Community Assemblies, Keeping it real project and Phonic workshops. Online learning platforms show a marked increase in the engagement of all pupils e.g. Purple Mash, Spelling shed, and Times Tables Rockstars.  Parents report positive experiences of working with their children on home learning tasks.

## 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: £57,354.86

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
High quality teaching for all pupils.  CPD opportunities to continue to improve high quality teaching for all staff.	Tiered approach to teaching (EEF) https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/production/documents/gui dance-for-teachers/pupil-premium/Pupil-Premium- 2023.pdf?v=1696434151  EEF toolkit states that `The best available evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve pupil attainment. Ensuring every teacher is supported in delivering high quality teaching is essential to achieving the best outcomes for all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged among them'.  EEF also states that the effects of high quality teaching are especially significant for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds: over a school year, these pupils gain 1.5 years' worth of learning with effective teaching.	1,2,3
Teaching staff to provide additional reading, writing and Maths support in Key Stage 2 to support all pupils in achieving ARE or above. Stretch and challenge focus group to be delivered by skilled practitioners. £8640	One to one tuition   EEF  EEF states that on average, one to one tuition is very effective at improving pupil outcomes. One to one tuition might be an effective strategy for providing targeted support for pupils that are identified as having low prior attainment or are struggling in particular areas.  2. Tuition is more likely to make an impact if it is additional to and explicitly linked with normal lessons.  3. One to one tuition can be expensive to deliver, particularly when delivered by teachers. Approaches that either deliver instruction through teaching assistants or in small groups rather than one to	3

	one have smaller positive effects, on average, but may be a cost- effective solution to providing targeted support.  4. For one to one tuition led by teaching assistants, interventions are likely to be particularly beneficial when the teaching assistants are experienced, well-trained and supported – for example, delivering a structured intervention.	
Ensure that pupils in EYFS receive the best possible start to their education, thereby enabling them to achieve accelerated progress upon entry.  Purchase of Early Excellence furniture and resources.  £13,855.86	Recognising the importance of early intervention, we are committed to investing in high-quality provision within the Nursery and Reception classroom. This includes the recent purchase of new EYFS resources for the Reception classroom from Early Excellence, which enhances the learning environment and supports diverse learning needs.  Our Nursery participate in the 'Making it Real' project, which is pivotal in fostering an engaging literacy-rich environment. This initiative employs the ORIM framework—Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction, and Modelling—to guide parents in supporting their children's literacy development. By providing parents with tools and strategies articulated within this framework, we aim to strengthen the home-school partnership that is critical for the success of our pupils.  To facilitate this collaboration, our Nursery teacher and TA will conduct a series of home visits and literacy events. These interactions not only serve to share the principles of ORIM with families but also encourage a supportive approach to early literacy. By actively engaging parents in their children's education, we anticipate that all pupils will benefit from enriched literacy experiences that promote both engagement and progress.	1,2,3,6
Phonics training for all staff that are involved in early reading and the teaching of phonics.  RWI Subscription £1600  Continue to work with Liane Price from RWI to support staff development learning and progress in Phonics. £2662  Claire Sherry from Corpus Christy trust to support staff development and	Phonics underpins confidence in reading and writing. Excellent teaching is key to ensure children develop secure and lasting phonics knowledge.  EEF states that the teaching of phonics should be explicit and systematic to support children in making connections between the sound patterns they hear in words and the way that these words are written.  EEF states that phonics has a positive impact overall of +5 months with very extensive evidence and is an important component in the development of early reading skills, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.	2,3
learning and progress in Phonics.  2 additional TAs to support the teaching of Phonics and Reading in KS1 and KS2. £30,000	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics	
Reading and writing will continue to be a key priority for 2024/25 to embed the work from the School Improvement Plan.  To implement Christopher Such approach to reading in Key Stage 2 with a focus upon vocabulary, fluency and	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education- evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension- strategies	1,2,3

extended and closed reading.
Training to be delivered by
Corpus Christy Trust. CPD to
support explicit teaching of
fluency and vocabulary.
Reading assessed termly PIRAS
Whole class guided reading
opportunities
Purchase new comprehension
books in KS2 (Complete

Reading comprehension strategies are high impact, on average (+6 months). Alongside phonics it is a crucial component of early reading instruction.

EEF states that a wide range of strategies and approaches can be successful, but for many pupils they need to be taught explicitly and consistently. It also states that lower attaining pupils appear to benefit in particular from the explicit teaching of strategies to comprehend text

Comprehension)To update class sets of novels.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has several recommendations for teaching spelling, including:

**Explicit instruction**: Spelling should be taught explicitly, and not just tested.

**Relevant spellings**: Focus on spellings that are relevant to the topic or genre being studied.

**Contextual learning**: Incorporate spelling into meaningful contexts, such as writing assignments, projects, and real-life situations.

**Spelling games and activities**: Engage students through interactive activities such as word searches, crossword puzzles, spelling bees, and digital resources.

**Differentiated instruction**: Tailor instruction to meet individual needs.

**Balanced approach**: Teach phonology, morphology, orthography, and etymology in combination and at the earliest stages.

**Dictation**: Use dictation to check whether spelling patterns have been understood.

To promote parental engagement through, Community Assemblies and an open-door approach to encourage parents to seek support from school to improve home learning.

To provide access to home learning activities

- Times Tables Rockstars £250
- Spelling Shed £250
- Numbots £97
- RWI Portal

Parental engagement approaches have, on average, a positive impact of 5 months' additional progress. It is crucial to consider how to engage with parents to avoid widening the attainment gaps. There is extensive evidence on the positive impact of parental engagement approaches.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/early-years-toolkit/parental-engagement#:~:text=Parental%20engagement%20refers%20to%20early,in%20the%20early%20years%20setting.

2,6

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

Budgeted cost: £12,769.96

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Employ a Speech and Language Therapist to screen all children on entry and bespoke programmes put in place.  Tameside- Speech and Language Support £11,769.96  Oral language assessments and interventions in EYFS (WellComm) Embed SALT activities across EYFS and KS1 where appropriate. Purchase WellComm Wizard to support staff to assess and track speech and language progress. £99	On average, oral language approaches have a high impact on pupil outcomes of 6 months' additional progress over the course of a year. (EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit)  Training can support adults to ensure that model and develop pupils' oral language skills and vocabulary development.  Approaches that focus on speaking and listening show positive impacts on attainment.  Language interventions with frequent sessions over a sustained period may have a larger impact, overall. Approaches that are delivered one to one also have a larger impact.  https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/oral-language-interventions  On average, oral language approaches have a high impact on pupil outcomes of 6 months additional progress over the course of 12 months.	1,2,3,6
All teaching assistants and teachers to attend/complete Language Communication Champions training provided by the Harmony Trust or ELKLAN training provided by Corpus Christie Trust.		
To provide quality CPD to all learning support assistants to improve one to one targeted support.  Weekly CPD led by Mr Woolley.  National College Subscription: £1000	On average, one to one tuition is very effective at improving pupil outcomes. One to one tuition might be an effective strategy for providing targeted support for pupils that are identified as having low prior attainment or are struggling in particular areas. One to one support is more likely to make an impact if it is additional to and explicitly linked with normal lessons.	1,2,3

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

**Budgeted cost: £61,996.59** 

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Pastoral Manager will work with vulnerable pupils/parents/families. Mental health and wellbeing are a priority for our pupils. The Pastoral Manager provides a named person to support families and signpost them for additional external help. The Pastoral Manager will also work with individual pupils and groups to support their specific needs. £31,067	EEF Social and emotional skills are essential for children's development- they support effective learning and are linked to positive outcomes in later life. With the right support, children learn to articulate and manage their emotions, deal with conflict, solve problems, understand things from another person's perspective and communicate in appropriate ways.  https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/support-for-schools/school-planning-support/3-wider-strategies  More frequent behaviour difficulties meaning PP pupils are more likely to experience behavioural difficulties, which impacts on their academic progress. Existing interventions have had an impact on behaviour incidents and have significantly reduced this year, an improvement on the previous year's behavioural incidents.  With the additional increase in Social Service involvement, it is essential that we know our children and can spot triggers, which will affect learning. Pastoral Manager also supports families and provides essential liaison between school, social services support and families.  Some pupils require nurture sessions on entry to school in the mornings to support readiness for learning at the beginning of the school day.	2,4,5 ,6
Sports coach to provide after school sports clubs through Tameside Active. £1,872.00	British Medical Journal state that one in 10 children starting primary school in England at a healthy weight is obese or overweight on leaving, figures from Cancer Research UK have shown.  https://www.bmj.com/content/354/bmj.i4743	2,4,5
Use of outdoor learning to support key groups of pupils  Ensuring sustainability of Forest Schools approach by adopting an outdoor learning model so more pupils can access learning and staff continue to feel confident to deliver.  All year groups to access weekly forest school sessions for one half term.  TAs to plan and lead forest school sessions.  Resources £500	Key findings of Forest Research: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/forest-schools-impact-on-youngchildren-in-england-and-wales/ The evaluation suggests Forest Schools make a difference in the following ways:  • Confidence: children had the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence  • Social skills: children gained increased awareness of the consequences of their actions on peers through team activities such as sharing tools and participating in play  • Communication: language development was prompted by the children's sensory experiences  • Motivation: the woodland tended to fascinate the children and they developed a keenness to participate and the ability to concentrate over longer periods of time  • Physical skills: these improvements were characterised by the development of physical stamina and gross and fine motor skills  • Knowledge and understanding: the children developed an interest in the natural surroundings and respect for the environment	1,2,3,4

Education Welfare Officer	Attendance and Punctuality issues	E 6
(EWO)	Attendance and Punctuality issues.  Attendance figures are currently lower than previous years due to issues with persistent absenteeism from a small number of families. Mrs Duggan (Pastoral Manager) follows up lateness and absences on a daily basis and works with EWO to follow up and improve attendance of these pupils.	5,6
Music teacher x 1 day per week to provide all with music lessons, singing practice and brass instrument instruction. £10,390	The benefits of teaching music in primary school are apparent; it teaches the children about rhythm, lets them get creative & gives them a taste of being a musician.  • Music is a critical factor in developing a child's emotional development.  • Music can help develop a child's phonics and language skills.  • Teaching music in primary schools can develop a child's memory.  https://themusicalme.com/benefits-of-teaching-music-in-primary-schools/#:~:text=For%20individuals%20who%20have%20a,taste%20of%20being%20a%20musician.	1,2,4
Residential Costs £1500	To provide the pupils with the experience of a residential trip essential for their own wellbeing and to promote cultural capital.  All disadvantaged pupils in Years 5 have the opportunity to take part in a three day residential trip. Year pupils have the opportunity to take part in a 1 day visit to London.  Ofsted June 2024  Taking your pupils on enriching and enlightening school trips will lead to better engagement and performance.  The State of Education Report 2017 found- "79% of Primary and Secondary school leaders thought their curriculums should include more Life Skills" The WHO defines life skills as objectives for mental health as including. Problem solving and decision-making skills  Development of critical and creative thinking skills  Communication and interpersonal skills	1,2,3,4,5
To fund daily afterschool enrichment clubsCraft -Dance -Yoga -Cheerleading -Board Games -Crocheting -Messy Play -Running -Multi skills - Computer Club -Gardening 2 club assistants: £12,160	https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/resbr3-final.pdf  Benefits of taking part in after school clubs include providing access to enriching new experiences, providing opportunities for children to succeed, fostering self-esteem and confidence, supporting the academic curriculum, improving fitness, providing opportunities to socialise, as well as opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment.	1,2,3,4,5

To revamp and update class sets of books to support new	Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) comment: Falling number of	1,2,3,4
reading curriculum.	To ensure that all children access good quality books.	
£2442.59  Subscribe to classroom	Update the library to encourage greater use by both pupils and families to improve parental engagement in their child's reading for pleasure.	
magazines. £1000	In a new report (Tuesday 5 November), the National Literacy Trust (NLT) highlights the declining number of young people reading for pleasure.	
	This research found that 34.6% of young people, aged between eight and eighteen, said they enjoy reading in their free time. This is a sharp decline from 43.4% just last year and the lowest level on record since the charity started the survey in 2005.	
	"We know that reading is one of the most important building blocks for young people to achieve their potential across many subjects in school, building their vocabulary, grammar and overall general knowledge. This goes beyond school achievement though. Good literacy levels are vital to building a successful career and engaging with the wider world.	
	We can't allow reading for pleasure to just ebb away. It's imperative that this practice is encouraged and prioritised amongst children and educators have a huge part to play in this.	
	Therefore, we aim to revamp classroom libraries (in line with Dfe reading framework recommendations) and encourage them to read for pleasure and increase the number of pupils achieving ARE and above in reading.	
`Walk the Plank' anti-bullying	Improving behaviour in schools	4,5
performance by Two boards and a Passion theatre company. £600	A key influence on a child's behaviour in school is being the victim of bullying. As well as causing stress for the pupil, being bullied is linked to lower attainment outcomes.	
	School approaches to prevent and respond to bullying are likely to involve establishing and maintaining high quality behaviour management throughout the whole school with support from parents and other stakeholders.	
	In a systematic review and meta-analysis of antibullying programmes produced by the Campbell Collaboration in 2009, the authors Ttofi and Farrington reviewed 53 school initiatives and pulled out effective programmes and programme features. They found that anti-bullying programmes were often effective at reducing bullying, with an average reduction in bullying of 20-23% after implementing a programme.	
National School Breakfast	Improving readiness to learn	4, 5
Programme: Providing cereals and bagels for those attending breakfast club. Additional bagels offered to all pupils on entry into school.	Dfe National School Breakfast Club Programme. Evidence shows that providing a healthy school breakfast at the start of the school day can contribute to improved readiness to learn, increase concentration, and improve wellbeing and behaviour.	
£465	Also, evidence that this improves attendance and punctuality.	

Total budgeted cost: £132,121.41

Remaining: £2098.59

### Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

## Pupil premium strategy outcomes 2023/24

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

### Phonics Assessments 2023/24

	School disadvantaged	School non disadvantaged	National disadvantaged	National non disadvantaged	LA disadvantaged	LA non disadvantaged
	13 pupils					
Phonics	70.6%	61.5%	66.31%	84.3%	69.0%	81.7%

### End of Key Stage 2 Assessments 2023/2024

	School disadvantaged (11 pupils)		School non- disadvantaged		National		National disadvantaged		National non- disadvantaged	
	ARE+	GD	ARE+	GD	ARE+	GD	ARE+	GD	ARE+	GD
Reading	69.2%	7.7%	76.9%	15.4%%	74.2%	28.5%	62.1%	17.9%	79.3%	32.9%
Writing	84.6%	23.1%	69.2%	7.7%	71.8%	13.0%	58.8%	6.2%	77.4%	15.7%
Maths	84.6%	0%	61.5%	0%	73.1%	23.9%	59.2%	12.7%	79.1%	28.5%
GPS	92.3%	23.1%	69.2%	15.4%	72.2%	31.9%	59.2%	19.6%	77.8%	37.0%

### Combined reading, writing and maths scores for Disadvantaged Pupils 2023/24

ŀ	46.7%	61.5%	46.2%	45.6%	66.9%	49.1%	
		disadvantaged	disadvantaged	disadvantaged	disadvantaged	disadvantaged	
	School School		School non-	National	National non-	Local authority	

### Strategy outcomes for disadvantaged pupils 2023/24

- Pastoral support available for all pupils provided by pastoral manager including individual, group and family support.
- High quality CPD accessed by all staff on pedagogy and EEF publications
- All pupils in Year 6 received additional tuition by a teacher in small groups or 1:1
- Read, Write, Inc continues to be used throughout the school including one to one tutoring for those pupils in need.
- Subsidised residential trips available for all Pupil Premium pupils.
- Pathways to Write (writing programme) implemented throughout the school has had a positive impact upon the teaching of writing.
- Observations indicate that pupil behaviour continues to be excellent throughout all year groups.

# **Externally provided programmes**

 ${\it Non-DfE\ programmes\ that\ the\ school\ purchased\ in\ the\ previous\ academic\ year.}$ 

Programme	Provider
Times Tables Rockstars	Maths Circle Limited
Spelling Shed	Edshed
WellComm	GL Assessment
RWI Portal	Ruth Miskin and RWI
Lexia Core 5 Reading	Lexia
Purple Mash	2 Simple