



Pupil Premium Policy 2023 - 2024

Overarching Principle: 'Inspiring Excellence'

Coombeshead Academy is dedicated to diminishing the attainment and progress difference between students who are deemed to be our most disadvantaged and their peers. We aim to do this through a variety of methods, one of which is the use of the Pupil Premium Fund.

As a school we believe that we must work in partnership with our students, parents and carers, staff and the community to provide an outstanding education for our young people. We place a strong emphasis on ensuring a high quality of teaching and learning so that **every student** has equal access to the very best conditions in order to achieve and succeed. Providing quality first teaching and learning is our principal approach to diminish the difference - an approach which is supported by national research.

All members of staff and governors accept responsibility for those students recognised as socially disadvantaged and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs.

Every child in receipt of pupil premium funding is valued, respected and entitled to develop to his/her full potential.

Background to the Pupil Premium Fund

Introduced in April 2011, the Pupil Premium Fund is a Government initiative that provides additional funding aimed at students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds underachieve compared to their peers who are deemed not to be economically disadvantaged. The Pupil Premium Fund is provided in order to support these students in reaching their potential by accelerating their progress.

The Government has used students entitled to Free School Meals and those who are looked after as an indicator for deprivation. They have given a fixed amount of money to schools per student, based on the number of students registered for Free School Meals (FSM), or those who have been at any point in the last six years (Ever 6), those students who are looked after by the local authority, and those who have been adopted post local authority care. A premium has also been introduced for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces.

Overall Objectives:

- Our school will ensure that the Pupil Premium funding is used to support the groups of students for whom it was intended and that it makes a significant impact on their education and lives.
- The Pupil Premium will be used to provide additional educational support to improve the progress and raise the achievement of these students.

- The funding will be used to narrow and ultimately close the gap between the achievement and progress of these students and their non-disadvantaged peers.
- We will use the additional funding to address any underlying inequalities between disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students, based on the principle of diminishing the difference in progress and attainment.

How we will ensure effective use of the Pupil Premium

- The Pupil Premium will be clearly identifiable within the whole school budget.
- The head teacher and assistant headteacher, in consultation with the governors and staff, will decide how the Pupil Premium is spent for the benefit of the entitled students. Funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority groups or individuals.
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged students, we recognise that not all students who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged or underachieving. We also recognise that not all students who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We therefore reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any groups of students the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.
- The school will assess what additional provision should be made for individual students.
- The school will be accountable for how it has used the additional funding to support the achievement of those students covered by the Pupil Premium Fund.
- The assistant headteacher will report to the governing body and parents on how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims, including publishing online information about how the funding has been used.
- We will track the impact of the strategies put into place through the funding to ensure that we can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled children.
- We will monitor evaluate and review the success of the impact of the pupil premium funding.

Provision

We will regularly seek to develop strategies and interventions which can improve the progress and attainment of these pupils. For some students, provision may be personalised to meet their individual needs. We will seek to base our provision on research, both national and local, in our aim to diminish the difference. For example, we will use the Education Endowment Fund Teacher Toolkit as a key source of evidence, along with the Sutton Trust evaluations of intervention impact. However, our primary strategy in improving the outcomes for our Pupil Premium students is quality first teaching.

Examples of the range of provision we may put in place include:

- Providing small group or 1:1 support with an experienced member of staff to focus on overcoming barriers to learning.
- Providing students with the resources that they need in order to be successful e.g. revision guides, calculators and access to ICT.
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through learning mentors, trained TAs or external agencies.

The DfE will also provide schools with information about strategies and interventions which can improve the progress and attainment of pupils from poorer backgrounds.

Barriers to educational achievement.

- Coombeshead Academy recognises that students with disadvantage can find it difficult to find effective spaces to study at home. This is why a core focus of our spending is on 'Academic Support' to ensure that disadvantaged students have the same opportunities as their peers to revise, complete independent work and study.
- Coombeshead Academy recognises that students with disadvantage can lack the opportunity to engage in a broad range of activities which affects their development of cultural and social capital. This is why some of our spending is on 'Additional Opportunities' to ensure that disadvantaged students have the same opportunities as their peers to experience enrichment e.g. music lessons for those students studying this subject.
- Coombeshead Academy recognises that students with disadvantage can face challenging home lives where families may have a weaker ability to fully support the pastoral needs of their children. This is why a core focus of our spending is on 'Pastoral support' to ensure that disadvantaged students have the same level of wellbeing and academic access as their peers.
- Coombeshead Academy recognises that some of our students and families with disadvantage cannot afford the basics necessary to fully partake in the Academy's curriculum and community. This is why a core focus of our spending is on 'Hardship funding' to ensure that disadvantaged students can be provided with some equipment and books.
- Coombeshead Academy recognises that some of our students and families with disadvantage do not always engage fully in the aspirational process of securing great destinations beyond school. Coombeshead Academy's key ethos is to ensure that all children, no matter their background, have the opportunity to go to university. This is why a core focus of our spending is on 'Destinations' to ensure that disadvantaged students have the same chance of securing that aim.
- Coombeshead Academy recognises that students with disadvantage are more likely to have lower school attendance. As a result, we focus a spending of highly effective attendance management and improvement systems. This ensures that pupil premium attendance remains closely in line with that of non-pupil premium students.

From 2023 - 2024 the funding is set at

- £1035 for any child in receipt of Free School Meals or who has been eligible at any point in the last six years

- £2530 for any child who is looked after (LAC) and for any child who has left local authority care because of adoption, a special guardian order, a child arrangement order or a residence order.
- £335 for any students with a parent in the armed forces.

The Government gives schools autonomy in determining how the funding is spent and has made clear that the fund is not a personal budget for each FSM and Ever 6 student. At Coombeshead Academy we strive to achieve a significant diminishing of the difference between the attainment and progress of our disadvantaged students and their non-disadvantaged peers. To do this, we analyse the needs and barriers facing our current cohort of disadvantaged students and target the fund accordingly.

The bulk of the Fund is spent on ensuring that disadvantaged students receive quality first teaching and pastoral support. The appendix to this policy outlines what we consider the remaining monies can and cannot fund. This is based on improving the attainment and progress of our disadvantaged students in their GCSE outcomes. However, we recognise that the needs of each student and each cohort are different and therefore we may modify the provision based on this.

We recognise that individual needs may arise during the academic year that do not fit neatly into the categories listed in the appendix. In such cases, any request should be made to Miss J Chappell for due consideration. Please note that the headteacher's decision, following any request, will be final. The decision will be based on a fair and consistent approach to diminish the attainment and progress difference for all students deemed to be disadvantaged.

This policy may be subject to change, based on wider school needs and national developments.

Appeal

It is best to try and resolve any appeals by talking to Miss J Chappell in the first instance. In the event of your concern remaining unresolved, please follow the school complaints procedure.

Reporting outcomes

It will be the responsibility of the assistant headteacher with responsibility for the Fund to produce a report for the Governing Body.

The report will include:

- The progress made towards diminishing the difference between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.
- An outline of the provision made during the period since the last report.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

The governors will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents outlining how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of diminishing the difference for socially disadvantaged students which will be published on the school website.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Pupil Premium policy will be monitored through:

- SLT reporting to governors
- Pupil Premium link Governor visits;
- Pupil Premium SLT lead to track student data at each key assessment point and report findings to SLT;
- Examination results.

Please contact Miss Chappell for help with

- specific enquiries
- applying for Free School Meals
- extracurricular school activities (equipment and travel)
- making appointments for Progress Evenings
- liaising with teaching staff