

Ashington Academy Pupil Premium Strategy Statement 2024-2025

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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	969
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	32.51%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended)	2024/2025 – 2026/2027
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Statement authorised by	Yvonne Weston
Pupil premium lead	David Parker
Governor / Trustee lead	Ernie Milne

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£324,690
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£324,690

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Ashington Academy strives to support disadvantaged pupils in all areas of their education from entry. Our aim is that every disadvantaged pupil will achieve at least as well as their peers, have every opportunity to excel and be fully prepared for the next stage in their education and future employment. Our strategy centres on the offer of a challenging, knowledge-rich curriculum, supported by evidence-informed, high-quality teaching, with the provision of targeted academic support and wider strategies (including a wealth of enrichment experiences to widen horizons and pastoral support), where needed. Therefore, it is vital that we support our pupils' physical and mental health and wellbeing to enable them to fully engage in learning.

Some disadvantaged pupils face many complex barriers during their education, making effective learning very difficult. Other pupils have very specific, individual needs, whilst others encounter few barriers. Below are some of the main difficulties faced, although it must also be emphasised that the difficulties encountered are not unique to those who are disadvantaged. We aim to meet and support pupils at their point of need, wherever possible and feasible.

Common barriers to learning for disadvantaged pupils include less support at home, especially during the pandemic; weak language and communication (including oracy) skills, underpinned by, in some cases, a limited vocabulary; fewer opportunities to read books; fewer resources to help with learning (e.g. text books / internet access); reading ages below their chronological age; lack of confidence and resilience; more frequent behaviour difficulties and attendance and punctuality concerns. Some pupils have struggled with their physical and mental wellbeing, and this has been exacerbated because of the pandemic. For some pupils, there may be complex family situations that prevent them from flourishing, whereas some have limited opportunities to experience cultural trips and visits. Finally, some pupils have fewer opportunities to learn about the wide range of opportunities once they leave school for higher education and employment. The challenges are varied and there is no "one size fits all".

Pupil Premium Funding contribute to the work of the school in meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils by:

- Ensuring that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring that all pupils benefit from high quality teaching in the classroom.
- Ensure all pupils have a place to study in school where they can access adult support, class texts and the internet.
- Offering tuition in small groups or 1 to 1, where there is identified need.
- Developing the resilience of pupils, building their self-esteem, and enabling them to develop the skills that will enable them to learn effectively in the classroom environment.
- Providing therapeutic intervention, where needed, using personal intervention programmes and counselling, where appropriate.
- Working closely with pupils who need additional support to manage their behaviour.
- Working with pupils and their families to identify the causes of attendance concern and support good attendance.
- Ensuring pupils have every opportunity to access enrichment programmes.
- Ensuring pupils receive high quality careers information, advice, and guidance so that they have high aspirations for themselves and for their future.
- Ensuring pupils personal development is well supported and that they are ready for post 16 education/training/employment.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<i>A higher proportion of disadvantaged pupils are reading below their chronological age, meaning they struggle to access subjects across the curriculum and their confidence is affected. This is further compounded by weaker oracy skills and verbal reasoning skills.</i>
2	<i>A higher proportion of disadvantaged pupils possess significant gaps in numeracy knowledge, particularly on entry, where some disadvantaged Year 7 students have weaker quantitative reasoning skills on entry than their peers.</i>
3	<i>Some disadvantaged pupils have greater knowledge 'gaps' in different subjects across the curriculum. As a result, some students need individual tuition and/or tuition in small groups to enable them to achieve.</i>
4	<i>Some disadvantaged pupils have poor attendance compared to their peers. Reasons for this are complex, ranging from significant challenges in their life to social, emotional and mental health needs.</i>
5	<i>Parental engagement with school is lower amongst some parents of disadvantaged pupils and, with those hardest to reach, education is sometimes not valued, and aspirations can be low.</i>
6	<i>Some disadvantaged pupils face financial barriers in relation to uniform, equipment (including IT equipment and access) and wider educational experiences which prevents them from accessing the core and wider curriculum: a wealth of enrichment is needed to widen their horizons and unlock potential.</i>
7	<i>A small proportion of disadvantaged students find it difficult adjusting to the expectations in a large school environment and can struggle to manage their behaviour.</i>
8	<i>All pupils need the highest quality teaching in every classroom.</i>

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 ability	Disadvantaged pupils are reading in line with their chronological age by the end of Key Stage 3.
Improved progress	Disadvantaged pupils achieve positive Progress 8 at GCSE.
Improved attainment	Disadvantaged pupils achieve in line with or above the national average for Attainment 8
Improved EBacc entry	The percentage of disadvantaged students achieving EBacc increases.
Improved attendance	Attendance for disadvantaged pupils to be in line with national average.
Reduction in fixed term exclusions	The number of internal exclusions and external suspensions for disadvantaged pupils reduces over the three year period.

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: £ 70,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>High quality professional development for all staff to secure quality-first teaching across the curriculum in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing positive behaviours for learning (T&L Priority 3) Developing reading (T&L Priority 2) Developing student knowledge including feedback and homework (T&L Priority 1) 	<p>EEF: T&L Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback +6 months progress Metacognitive approaches +7 months progress Reading comprehension strategies +6months progress Oral language interventions +6 months 	1, 2, 3, 8
<p>Deepen teachers' understanding of pedagogy across each curriculum area by engagement with subject specialists in their field.</p>	<p>EEF: Effective Professional Development EEF: Teaching and Learning Toolkit Ofsted: Subject Curriculum research reviews</p>	1, 2, 3, 8
<p>Staffing costs to provide coaching support and lead professional development.</p>	<p>EEF: Effective Professional Development</p>	1, 2, 3, 8
<p>Recruitment & retention of specialist staff in English and maths to support improved progress and attainment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment costs including the addition of Maths and English TLR posts. Staffing costs ECF programme 	<p>EEF guide to the Pupil Premium 'ensuring an effective teacher is in front of every class, and that every teacher is supported to keep improving... should be the priority of the Pupil Premium spending'.</p>	1, 2
<p>Professional development and retention of middle leaders, to ensure the curriculum continues to be effectively implemented in all areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NELT Led Leadership programmes to support existing and future middle leaders In-school middle leader development programme Trust development programme 	<p>EEF guide to the Pupil Premium 'ensuring an effective teacher is in front of every class, and that every teacher is supported to keep improving... should be the priority of the Pupil Premium spending'.</p>	1, 2, 8

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

Budgeted cost: £ 90,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p><i>Overstaff in Maths and English to deliver intervention and targeted support to address gaps in literacy and numeracy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Small group tuition for identified pupils in KS3 and KS4.</i> 	<p><i>EEF T&L Toolkit -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Small group tuition +4 months progress.</i> 	<p>1,2</p>
<p><i>Targeted reading intervention programme, supported by NGRT results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ongoing staff training</i> <i>Small group phonics & reading fluency intervention delivered by trained Peer Mentors, Lead Learning Mentors and English teaching staff (aligned with school curriculum topics).</i> <i>Personalised small group (5) intervention programme delivered by an English teacher and in line with NGRT results (aligned with school curriculum topics).</i> 	<p><i>EEF T&L Toolkit –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Peer tutoring +5 months progress.</i> <i>Small group tuition +4months progress.</i> <i>Reading comprehension strategies +6months progress.</i> <p><i>EEF Secondary Literacy Guidance Report –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>‘High quality teaching across the curriculum will reduce the need for extra literacy support. Nevertheless, it is likely that a small number of students will require additional support – in the form of high-quality structured interventions... increasing intensity with need’ P30.</i> 	<p>1</p>
<p><i>Lead Learning Mentors support most vulnerable learners and those identified as SEND.</i></p>	<p><i>EEF Guide to Pupil Premium –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mentoring +2 months progress.</i> <i>1-2-1 tuition +5 months progress.</i> 	<p>1, 2, 3, 8</p>

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

Budgeted cost: £ 164,690

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p><i>Attendance intervention programme.</i></p> <p><i>Attendance team to work with families to reduce the absence of pupils who struggle to attend regularly:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assistant Headteacher Pastoral (very small teaching commitment)</i> • <i>Year Managers</i> • <i>Attendance Officer</i> • <i>Inclusion Manager</i> • <i>Family Liaison Officer</i> • <i>Attendance monitoring group – rewards programme</i> 	<p><i>EEF Guide to Pupil Premium – use of wider strategies relating to non-academic barriers</i></p>	<p>4, 5</p>
<p><i>Pastoral team to support pupils who struggle to manage their behaviour including provision of personal intervention programmes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assistant Headteacher Pastoral (very small teaching commitment)</i> • <i>Assistant Headteacher Personal Development</i> • <i>Year Managers</i> • <i>Services from LA Behaviour Support Team</i> • <i>Counsellor to lead individual and small group sessions</i> • <i>Bridge and C5 facilitators</i> 	<p><i>EEF T&L Toolkit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Behaviour interventions +4 months progress</i> • <i>Social & emotional learning +4months progress</i> 	<p>7, 5</p>
<p><i>Provide pastoral support to pupils who need additional help, including those who face significant challenges in their lives and have social, emotional and mental health needs that prevent them from learning well (this includes support for those who have experienced bereavement). SLT and tutor wellbeing checks for all students.</i></p>	<p><i>EEF T&L Toolkit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social & emotional learning +4months progress</i> 	<p>4, 5, 7</p>
<p><i>Encourage pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities (onsite) to widen their experiences and broaden their horizons.</i></p>	<p><i>EEF: Guide to Pupil Premium</i></p>	<p>6</p>

<i>Facilitate pupils in taking part in range of enrichment experiences (off site) in order to widen their horizons and unlock future opportunities.</i>		
<i>Strategies to increase parental engagement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Text to parent service</i> • <i>Social media campaigns</i> • <i>Informal parent drop-ins, reading group, coffee mornings</i> • <i>Half-termly bulletin</i> 	<i>EEF T&L Toolkit – parental engagement strategies +4 months progress</i>	5
<i>Grants to support access to uniform, equipment, and a space to study (Homework Club)</i>	<i>EEF Guide to Pupil Premium – use of wider strategies relating to non-academic barriers</i>	6
<i>Recruitment of a Family Liaison Officer to support students and parents/carers in improving engagement, attendance and behaviour.</i>	<i>EEF Guide to Pupil Premium – use of wider strategies relating to non-academic barriers</i>	4,5,6
<i>Recruitment of a Counsellor to support students with social, emotional and mental health issues.</i>	<i>EEF Guide to Pupil Premium – use of wider strategies relating to non-academic barriers</i>	4,5,6

Total budgeted cost: £324,690

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

Progress and outcomes:

The academic year 2023-24 marked the end of a three-year cycle of the pupil premium plan.

Our attainment and progress data in the 2023-24 academic year continues to demonstrate positive outcomes across all measures. Pupil Premium students continue to make positive progress in comparison to regional and national data and continues to demonstrate a positive trend in Pupil Premium attainment and progress since 2019.

Measure	2022	2023	2024
P8 (PP)	-0.27	+0.67	+0.25
Attainment 8 (PP)	41.66	46.36	44.32

The above data shows that there we have maintained our positive outcomes across our Pupil Premium cohort. Progress remains positive across Maths and EBacc subjects, demonstrating that targeted academic support we put in place has had a significant impact.

Comparing our results to national figures helps to gauge the performance of our disadvantaged pupils against their peers in other schools. Our Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores compare favourably against both regional and national data, demonstrating that disadvantaged pupils at Ashington Academy achieve higher grades and make significantly better progress than their peers in other schools.

Attendance:

Attendance for Pupil Premium students remains broadly in-line with the national average for non-Pupil Premium students. In 2023, the academy was recognised for its impact in improving attendance for students in the Ashington area. As a direct result of this continued improvement, the Academy was awarded National Attendance Hub status by the DfE, which has resulted in Ashington Academy supporting 70 schools nationally to improve attendance.

Behaviour:

There has been an increase in overall exclusions for disadvantaged pupils (fixed and internal) in 2023-2024 compared with the previous year. This is both a regional and national trend with suspension rates at much higher levels across the country. Pupil Premium funding has been utilised to open a new SEND Support Centre within school to support students with additional needs and behaviour concerns. With the support of external agencies, the school has developed a range of resources to support students in remedial work and reflection. This is projected to improve over the next 3-year cycle.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you used your pupil premium (or recovery premium) to fund in the previous academic year.

Programme	Provider
ECF Programme	National Institute of Teacher Training (NELT and Northern Lights)