



Pupil Premium Policy St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academies

Our Vision

"Many Hearts, One Accord"

We are the many hearts that follow Jesus, the one accord.

"Through the strength of God's love and the power of prayer we are guided to do whatever He tells us. Many hearts, one accord, growing and learning together for life to build the kingdom of God."

(School Mission Statement)



Approved by: / Local
Academy Committee

Date: February 2025

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by: February 2026

St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academies aim to provide the very best educational experience for each individual pupil within a firm Catholic context, through developing our community as Christians, learners, teachers and pupils.

Principles

Every child with his/her individual needs and gifts is a unique gift from God. At St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we want to ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of the pupils, particularly those who are vulnerable. All members of staff and governors accept the responsibility for our pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within a caring Catholic environment. As with every child in our care, a child who belongs to a vulnerable group is valued and respected and is entitled to develop his/her full potential, irrespective of need.

We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to such groups and that they are adequately assessed and their needs addressed. In making the provision for these pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive Free School Meals (FSM) will be disadvantaged. We also recognise that not all pupils who are disadvantaged are registered for FSM.

We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil, or groups of pupils, the school has legitimately identified as being disadvantaged. Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify propriety classes, groups and/or individuals.

Background

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is a Government initiative that targets additional funding at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that this group

of pupils underachieve compared to their peers. The premium is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their full potential.

The Government has used pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) as an indicator for deprivation and have deployed a fixed amount of money to schools per pupil, based on the number of pupils registered for FSM in any of the previous 6 years (Ever 6 FSM).

At St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we will be using the indicator of those eligible for FSM as well as identified vulnerable groups as our target children to 'diminish the difference' regarding progress and attainment.

PPG is allocated to academies based on the number of pupils who are:

- Recorded as eligible for free school meals or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (FSM Ever 6). This includes eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).
- Previously looked-after children (PLAC): pupils who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

PPG is also allocated to local authorities based on the number of looked-after children (LAC) supported by the authority, including for those LAC who attend academies. LAC are defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority. It is up to the local authority to decide how much of this funding to pass on to the child's academy.

The portion of PPG funding for LAC and PLAC pupils is referred to as 'pupil premium plus' (PP+).

Pupil Premium Grant Expenditure Plan

The Secretary of State for Education lays down the following terms and conditions on which assistance is given in relation to the pupil premium grant (PPG) payable to academies (including free schools) for the financial year beginning 1 April 2022.

The grant can be spent:

- for the benefit of pupils registered at the academy that receives it
- for the benefit of pupils registered at other academies or maintained schools
- on community services whose provision furthers the benefit of pupils at the academy.

Academies may wish to use a portion of PPG funding to support pupils who do not meet any of the PPG eligibility criteria but have other identified needs, where they deem it beneficial to do so.

Academies must use PPG funding for the purpose of raising the educational attainment of PLAC, LAC and pupils who are recorded as FSM Ever 6.

In line with the 3-tiered approach in EEF's pupil premium guide, activities must be those that:

- support the quality of teaching, such as staff professional development
- provide targeted academic support, such as tutoring, and
- tackle non-academic barriers to academic success, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support

To ensure that pupil premium is focused on effective approaches to raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils, schools (including local authority virtual schools) must spend their pupil premium grant (excluding service pupil premium) on evidence-informed activities in line with the 'menu of approaches' set by the Department for Education (DfE).

The menu of approaches is in 'Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders'.

The menu aligns with the EEF's 3-tiered approach, which helps schools allocate spending across the following areas:

- developing high-quality teaching, for example through professional development and recruitment and retention
- providing targeted academic support, such as one-to-one or small group tuition
- tackling non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing

When considering the balance of spending within the 3-tiered model set out in EEF's guide to the pupil premium, schools should bear in mind that the EEF recommends that approaches which support and promote high-quality teaching in schools should be a top priority for pupil premium spending. However, the exact balance of spending between categories will vary depending on the specific needs of pupils and the relative size of the school's pupil premium cohort.

High attaining eligible pupils should receive just as much focus as lower attaining eligible pupils when it comes to spending funding. Evidence shows that eligible pupils who are among the highest performers at key stage 2 are more likely than their non-eligible peers to fall behind by key stage 4..

Provision

In order to meet the requirements of the PPG, the Academy Committee at St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace will ensure that the provision is made which secures the teaching and learning opportunities that meet the needs of all pupils. Strategies to include this are: providing small group or one-to-one support with a dedicated teacher or assistant who is focused on overcoming the gaps in learning and specifically targeted to raise pupil's progress and attainment.

All of our work through PPG will be aimed at accelerating progress for these individuals.

Children adopted from care or who have left care

It is the responsibility of the academy to ensure that their use of PPG addresses the specific needs of PLAC attending the academy.

Success Criteria

The evaluation of this policy is based on how the school can 'diminish the difference' between PPG children and their peers.

Targets will be identified and evaluated annually and included within the School Development Plan (SDP). The school will also use their pupil premium strategy, which runs over a 3 year period, in order to identify and address pupil need.

The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for PPG children
- The vast majority of PPG children will meet their individual targets
- Effective parent/pupil/school support, including an effective transition
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils with a whole-school approach.

Reporting and Accountability

It will be the responsibility of the Principal and Head of School to produce a yearly report to the Local Governing Body.

The information included within this report will be:

- The progress made towards diminishing the difference, by year group for PPG pupils
- An outline of the provision during the term that was made since the last meeting
- 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

At the end of the academic year, the Local Academy Committee of the schools will ensure that there is an annual statement to the parents on how the PPG funding has been used to address the issues of diminishing the difference for PPG children. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department of Education (DfE).

To comply with School Information regulations, the schools will publish an updated pupil premium strategy annually.

Pupil Premium Leader – Job Purpose

- To regularly conduct pupil voice opportunities with PP children so their views and ideas are shared.
- Ensure there is an up-to-date list available of children eligible for PP and the support that they have received.
- Pupil premium will be on the agenda of SLT meetings on a monthly basis to highlight successes and challenges.

- To work closely with class teachers to ensure we help 'diminish the difference' for the PP children.
- To contribute to raising the standards of children's attainment
- To share and support the school's responsibility to provide and monitor opportunities for the personal and academic growth of PP children.