

## Pupil premium strategy statement – Carterhatch Infant School

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils for the Academic Year 2025 26.

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. As per the guidance from the DfE as we are continuing our strategy plan from the last academic year this statement is an update from the Academic Year 2023 24.

### School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	233 – Not Including Nursery
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	46% - Not including Nursery
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended</b> )	2025 - 2026
Date this statement was published	November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Sarah Clements
Pupil premium lead	Sharon Kingham
Governor / Trustee lead	Tracey Charles

### Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£ 168,165.00
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years ( <i>enter £0 if not applicable</i> )	£ 0.00
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b>	£ 168,165.00

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

Our intention is that disadvantaged pupils make good progress and achieve across all subjects. We know research has shown that the Free School Meal indicator is an unreliable poverty measure and that many other children within our school are vulnerable to a low socioeconomic status. We will identify these children and whatever the barriers to achievement facing pupils are.

Our key principles are that high quality teaching sits at the heart of closing the gap in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children, we believe all our children have the right to a high attaining, aspirational curriculum where they are able to achieve and reach their full potential, and inspire them to be lifelong learners and successful members of the community.

We aim to ensure that our disadvantaged children have the same opportunities, experiences, support and aspirations as their non-disadvantaged peers, and we will facilitate pupils accessing a wide range of enrichment experiences, which will positively impact on their academic achievement and well-being.

We draw on the Education Endowment Foundation research that shows that small group tuition can be effective.

Our Pupil Premium strategy plan is for 1 year, although it has only changed slightly in the last couple of years. We have a 1 year plan instead of a 3 year plan as being an Infant School one third of our cohort changes each year.

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These poor language and literacy skills and understanding of vocabulary, affect reading and writing outcomes. Observations and assessments highlight increasing numbers of children with complex needs, including speech and language, poor working memory, attention difficulties and poor motor skills. These are barriers to the children accessing the full curriculum and are particularly evident amongst children who have SEND.
2	A lack of out of school experiences which can result in vocabulary deficit. Our disadvantaged pupils do not always have the same access to experiences, trips and holidays which in turn can impact on their vocabulary, their confidence and social skills particularly in the EYFS.

3	Limited life experiences and individual family circumstances impact decision making skills, and can reduce pupils' abilities to make links between their learning.
4	Poor attendance and punctuality impacts on learning and emotional well being. (There is no significant difference in attendance for PP children compared to NonPP, and the number of PA's for NonPP is slightly higher than that of PP, again highlighting the unreliability of this marker.)
5	Social and emotional need of children and families.

## 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
To improve language skills in early years and year 1 – especially subject specific vocabulary to support reading and writing skills.	% of children meeting ELG in reading moves closer to national. % of children passing phonics screening has no gap and the gap with national diminishes. Increased opportunities for writing at length across the curriculum.
Pupils make at least expected progress in reading, writing and maths	Reduced gap in attainment of PP and Non PP.
Pupils access a range of interventions to meet their needs, including speech and language.	Reduced gap in attainment of PP and Non PP.
To continue to provide rich experiences for children to widen their life chances and develop/ aid the opportunity to develop life skills and the vocabulary to articulate.	Continual progress of all children can be seen at termly review meetings.
Increase parental engagement to encourage aspirations.	Parents engage regularly with the school and discussions at parent consultations promote aspirations for the future.
All pupils have range of experiences available to them during their time at Carterhatch Infant School.	All children are enabled to participate in the full diary of activities, and are able to talk and write about these experiences.
Improve attendance rates of all pupils to raise the expectation across the school to bring us closer to local and national attendance rates. Improve the punctuality of PP Pupils.	Increased attendance. Improved punctuality rates.
Extend outreach to identified families, revisit how families are identified to ensure this is the best way.	Identified children and families are monitored tracked and supported wherever possible.

## 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: £ 93,165

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Prioritising early reading: Daily supported reading – reception and year 1 pupils are listened to daily by an adult. The programme closely matches text with ability and children are moved on quickly to the next level.</p> <p>Phonics support – additional support given to children at risk of falling behind in phases of phonics.</p>	<p>Deepening recognition of the fundamental importance of improving reading standards on a child's future academic achievement, wellbeing and success in life. (DfE The Reading Framework 2021)</p> <p>"Bold beginnings" Ofsted 2017 found that the most effective settings ensured that "that the teaching of reading, including systematic synthetic phonics, is the core purpose of the Reception Year"</p> <p>Education Endowment Foundation found "the evidence suggests that early years and pre-school interventions have a positive impact, delivering an average of around five additional months' progress. The approach appears to be particularly beneficial for children from low income families."</p> <p>DfE: The Reading Framework. Further described as the single most important reform in boosting children's life chances.</p>	1
<p>Additional resources for (Little Wandle) DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme and staff CPD, and associated reading resources.</p> <p>(Increase in resources needed as LW validated phonics now across the whole school)</p>	<p>Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base that indicates a positive impact on the accuracy of word reading, particularly for disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p><a href="#">Phonics   Toolkit Strand   Education Endowment Foundation   EEF</a></p> <p>Additional associated reading resources as programme extends across all years, to ensure that children can be engaged in reading and will make progress. Vocabulary remains a focus across the school.</p> <p>Evidence: Addressing the Education Disadvantage the Essex Way – Marc Rowland. – "A whole school culture of oracy and vocabulary is important, as is choosing appropriate texts</p>	1
Cultural Curriculum - Forest school	Ofsted (2019) refer to children needing the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life. Some of our disadvantaged children lack life experiences. Targeting trips and visitors will help to expose them to these opportunities.	2,5
Enrichment Opportunities – Forest School	<p>High levels of engagement and enjoyment from all children observed during Forest School sessions, increased attendance noted on FS days.</p> <p>Evidence taken from Addressing the Education Disadvantage the Essex Way by Marc Rowland.</p> <p>'Pupils often lack the background knowledge or experiences to make connections with learning. Background knowledge binds learning together.'</p>	2,3,4,5,

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

Budgeted cost: £ 25,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Experienced Reading Recovery Teacher and learning assistant to accelerating progress in targeted year groups 1:1 / small groups focus on gaps in learning – in addition to lessons in class	Education Endowment Fund: Evidence indicates that 1:1 tuition can be effective, delivering approximately 5 additional months' progress, or for small groups additional 4 months progress. Short, regular sessions 3 to 5 times a week over a period of 6 to 12 weeks appear to result in optimum impact. Evidence also suggests tuition should be additional to, but explicitly linked with, normal teaching, and that teachers should monitor progress to ensure the tutoring is beneficial.	1
After school reading club	As above – EEF evidence small group tuition +4 months	1

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

Budgeted cost: £ 50,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Free Breakfast Club & After School Club places	<p>The evidence shows that providing a healthy school breakfast at the start of the school day can contribute to improved readiness to learn, increased concentration, and improved wellbeing and behaviour. (DfE July 21)</p> <p>We know that attainment for all pupils can be improved with good attendance. Targeting families and promoting the importance of good attendance is essential to improving outcomes. National Centre for Educational Statistics 'Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement' Research undertaken by the DfE in 2016 showed that pupils with no absence are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15 per cent of all sessions.</p> <p>Sessions accessed by parents to ensure meetings with staff could be made before and after school. Both clubs also used to support attendance and punctuality. Clubs also used to support children with challenging home environments.</p>	2,4,5,
Family support worker	We know that attainment for all pupils can be improved with good attendance. Targeting families and promoting the importance of good attendance is essential to improving outcomes. National Centre for Educational Statistics 'Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement' Research undertaken by the DfE in 2016 showed that pupils with no absence are 1.3 times more likely to achieve level 4 or above, and 3.1 times more likely to achieve level 5 or above, than pupils that missed 10-15 per cent of all sessions.	3,4,5
Free bagels/toast for all children.	Free bagels/toast to be made available for all children every morning. Trial started Summer 23, very positive feedback. Continued since.	5
Attendance focus	<p>Carefully and systematically track attendance and chase absence, ensure all stakeholders understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality.</p> <p>Evidence taken from Addressing the Education Disadvantage the Essex Way by Marc Rowland. 'Wider approaches such as strategies to improve attendance are key. It should be underpinned by positive relationships between pupils, their families, school life and learning.'</p>	4

**Total budgeted cost: £ 168,165**

## Part B: Review of the previous academic year

### Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

In the EYFS the gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged identified last year has reverted again this year. 65.6% of PP children achieved GLD whilst only 57.1 of non PP did. Our overall performance improved slightly but we are still low against the local authority and National average.

The pupil premium gap seen in last years EYFS scores has tracked into the Year 1 phonics results, with PP children 12% lower than the NPP.

In 2023 PP GLD was 7% greater than non PP. Looking at the same cohort in 2024, their Phonics pass rate was 6% above the non PP, but in 2025 when looking at their KS1 results, non PP children achieved better than PP children in each subject.

Progress however, for all children across the school was in line with expectations, with so many children starting school at a low baseline and many with limited English due to our large percentage of EAL children (currently 72% across the school).

Additional opportunities to support early reading and also social and emotional support continue within our after school provision.

Forest School parent days and the whole school sports day were very well supported by all parents.

Our programme of external visits has been reviewed in line with the curriculum to ensure that the enrichment opportunities for all children supports their cultural development.

The Breakfast Bagel Bar has been a great success, our Family Support Officer runs this every morning, so she is then an even more familiar face to the parents and carers, which has opened up lines of communications. All children are offered a bagel, no one feels judged, there is no stigma attached to it.

### 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
None currently	

### Service pupil premium funding: None received