

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrates life and learning



PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

AUTHOR:	MRS. F. TIERNAN
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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bede, patron of our school, wrote:

“It was always my delight to learn and to teach”.

We are a celebrating community, living the Gospel Values, committed to educating children in the light of the Catholic Faith.

We journey together so that we

“Might have life - life in all its fullness”.

John 10:10

RATIONALE

St. Bede's Catholic Junior School fosters a truly Christian community which works together to facilitate the growth of the whole person, and empowers each individual to experience

“life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10)

We are determined and committed to providing all pupils with the best education possible; assisting all to achieve the very best they can, regardless of socio economic factors.

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011. It was allocated to children from low-income families who were known to be eligible for free school meals, and children who had been looked after continuously for more than six months. In 2012-13, eligibility for the Pupil Premium was extended to pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Schools are able to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit. They are, however, accountable for how they use the additional funding to support pupils from low-income families and the other target groups.

PRINCIPLES

Sir John Dunford, National Pupil Premium Champion for the Government, advises schools to focus on the quality of teaching. In ‘*Ten-point plan for spending the pupil premium successfully*’ October 2014, he states that there is solid evidence that poor teaching

disproportionately disadvantages deprived children. Equally, evidence tells us that excellent teaching disproportionately benefits them. So high quality teaching must be at the core of all Pupil Premium work. It follows that it is legitimate to spend Pupil Premium funding on raising the quality of teaching.

St. Bede's is committed to spending the Pupil Premium to enable the raising of standards, pupils reaching their potential and broadening opportunities for the disadvantaged pupils.

Pupil Premium funding is used strategically to support targeted pupils to achieve this aim in a number of ways:

- Assuring Quality First Teaching for all pupils;
- Effective feedback on learning (see Effective Feedback Policy);
- High quality professional development for staff;
- Targeted support for pupils who require intervention to access learning and/or achieve their potential;
- Offering an alternative learning experience with a more specialised focus on pastoral/nurture type activities to motivate pupils and raise aspirations to create a positive view of learning

A wide variety of strategies are employed to tackle 'the opportunity gap' in education and to raise attainment for the children from less advantaged backgrounds. For example:

- rigorous monitoring and use of data;
- deploying staff and resources effectively;
- employing intervention programmes;
- raising pupil aspirations using engagement/aspiration programmes;
- focussing on pupils' attitude to learning;
- engaging parents/carers;
- providing Family Learning;
- developing social and emotional competencies;
- supporting school transitions;
- using Reading Buddies to give peer support/assistance;
- one to one tutoring by volunteers, particularly in reading.

At St. Bede's all teaching and learning opportunities should meet the needs of all pupils. Where necessary our provision will be varied and adapted (funded by Pupil Premium) to meet the differing needs of our pupils.

Variation of need is determined by analysis of pupil data and tracking, in addition to discussion with parent/carers, pupils and staff. The school has made use of research information from The

Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to address specific needs of some pupils and maximise the use of Pupil Premium funding.

In structuring our provision, funded by Pupil Premium, we recognise that not all pupils who receive or have previously received free school meals (FSM) will be “socially disadvantaged” or “vulnerable”. Furthermore, we also recognise that not all pupils who could be described as “socially disadvantaged” or “vulnerable” are registered or qualify for free school meals, either at the present or in the past. As a result, whilst always linked to a pupil or a group of pupils receiving Pupil Premium, additional pupils identified as “socially disadvantaged” or “vulnerable”, may also benefit from variation or adaptation in provision.

Therefore, groups funded by the grant may be made up of Pupil Premium pupils and non-Pupil Premium pupils, where needs are similar, or where meeting their needs helps to create a learning environment conducive to success for all.

PROVISION

Provision may include:

- Achievement and standards work including additional class based or intervention activities to accelerate progress for targeted groups or individuals, alongside tracking systems to monitor pupil progress.
- Pastoral and/or nurture work, such as Wave 2 Silver SEAL supporting pupils with emotional or socially related issues which inhibit learning, impact on self-esteem or mental health.
- Out of hours and enrichment to ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to develop a range of talents including sport and creativity, also improving self-confidence and motivation for learning.
- Residential learning to enable pupils to develop new skills as well as independence and confidence through access to alternative activities that the school cannot offer on site.

Though varied in its nature and form, all strategies deployed through the use of Pupil Premium funding will be aimed towards a common outcome: accelerating progress, ensuring pupils make expected or better than expected progress to enable them to achieve or exceed Age Related Expectations.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pupil Premium funding may also be used to provide sustained professional development opportunities for teaching staff. This will be targeted to improve the quality of teaching in relation to specific strategies or approaches that research suggests will disproportionately benefit “vulnerable” pupils.

MONITORING

Reporting how the Pupil Premium funding is spent, and the impact it has made, is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Pupil Premium Co-ordinator. They also produce regular updates for governors, to ensure that funds have been used effectively and appropriately. The annual report for Pupil Premium is published on the school website.

REVIEW

The Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Headteacher in the light of good practice or at the request of a member of the school community. Any amendments will be agreed by the Staff and Governing Body.