

## **St Nicholas CE VC First School**

### **Pupil Premium Policy 2015**

The DfE has given us the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs.

'It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.'

However, we are accountable for the use of this additional funding.

### **Send and Dyslexia Friendly Schools' Policy Statement**

At St. Nicholas First School, all pupils are valued equally. Teachers plan lessons which enable all pupils to participate, achieve and excel, whatever their level of ability. Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to recognise and develop their own learning style, (auditory, visual or kinaesthetic), through varied and flexible provision across a broad and balanced curriculum.

In order to meet the needs of all our pupils, we hold the Schools' Dyslexia Friendly, Level 1 Award and are actively working towards Dyslexia Friendly Schools' Full Status.

As a school, we believe that a Dyslexia Friendly environment and teaching styles will benefit the learning of all pupils and not just those with dyslexic tendencies. Strategies that are good for the dyslexic learner are good for everyone.

### **THE PUPIL PREMIUM**

The Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools on the basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). The Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to outline how we will ensure that the Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the

achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level. They capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

We are aware that under The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, Schedule 4 there is specified information which has to be published on a school's website.

Section 9 of this regulation requires schools to publish 'The amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated'.

Through the Pupil Premium section of our website, we shall publish the above information. In meeting this requirement we will observe our continuing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, so that individuals or groups of individuals, including children funded through the Service Premium cannot be identified.

### **HOW WE WILL MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE USE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM**

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose. We also recognise that the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) has an element of deprivation funding included in it to address the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

Use the latest evidence based research (Sutton Trust Education Endowment Research) on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.

Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.

Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.

Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.

Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the

use of the Pupil Premium, by the school and governing body.

Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not a homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account.

Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way.

Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY**

This policy has been developed in consultation with our pupils, staff, governors and parents and carers. It is part of our commitment to reducing inequalities in outcomes and promoting the inclusive nature of the work we do at our school.

In developing this policy we have taken into account our statutory responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 requires us as a public organisation to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and two specific duties. Further information is available in our school's Equality Single Equality Scheme.

The overlap with our Equality Scheme is in relation to how we are meeting the needs of our pupils who are covered under the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act. Some of these pupils, especially minority ethnic, English is an additional language; Special Educational Needs and pupils with disabilities can suffer from higher rates of disadvantage and therefore can have higher rates of eligibility for FSM. Where this is the case, we shall take these additional needs into account.

When developing this Pupil Premium Policy, we have also taken into account the Ofsted Inspection Framework 2015, which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on narrowing gaps in standards. We also note that Ofsted has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

We expect all members of our school community, particularly staff and governors to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils.

### **The Head and Senior Leadership Team**

The Head and the Senior Leadership Team (Pupil Premium leader specifically) are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. They will also ensure that staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment. Through appraisal arrangements, they will make sure narrowing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the school.

It will be the responsibility of the Head to report to Governors on:

- the progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils an outline of the provision that has been made 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 Pupil Premium Leader has day to day responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this policy and monitoring outcomes. She has expert and informed knowledge of evidence based research of 'what works' and 'how' this works in narrowing the gaps. She knows how to customise this research to fit the needs of our pupils and school context.
- The Pupil Premium Leader and Head Teacher will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a termly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. She will also check to see that it is providing value for money.
- The Pupil Premium Leader will participate in a Pupil Premium Network to access high quality, current and evidenced base research and recommendations that will be considered to inform practice in school.

### **Teaching and Support Staff will:**

- maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability',
- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive,
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind, keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.
- We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

### **Governing body:**

Our governing body has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps is implemented.

Mrs Gollins is responsible for monitoring and evaluating this policy.

Our governing body will at least termly, keep our work in narrowing the gaps under review so that they can monitor the use of the Pupil Premium. In monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the governing body will take into account a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative (case studies, views, surveys etc.) data as evidence of impact.

At the end of the academic year, our Governors will ensure that there is an annual statement on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of narrowing the gaps in our school and the impact this has had on our website.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

Miss C Bolton Pupil Premium Champion Senior Leadership Team member

Mrs J Gollins Lead Governing Body member

## **MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE POLICY**

Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration the increased funding that becomes available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies we are using, such as that outlined in The DIY Evaluation Guide provided by the Education Endowment Foundation.

Reviews can involve staff, pupils, governors and parents and carers.

## **DISSEMINATING THE POLICY**

This Pupil Premium policy along with the details of actions will be published: on our website (with paper copies available on request in the school office) in the staff handbook and as part of induction for new staff included in the termly newsletters for parents and carers. We will also use other methods and occasions such as parents' evenings and assemblies, as appropriate to share information about the Pupil Premium.

## **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

Any appeals against this policy can be made through the governor's complaints procedure.