Pupil premium strategy statement – Merit Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding to help improve the attainment of our pupil premium pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the outcomes for pupil premium pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	34
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	50%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2023-2026
Date this statement was published	October 2023
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2024
Statement authorised by	S Whiteley
Pupil premium lead	S Winrow
Governor / Trustee lead	D Drew

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£17,595
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£6,000
Pupil premium (and recovery premium*) funding carried forward from previous years *(enter £0 if not applicable).*	£0
Total budget for this academic year *If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year*	£23,595

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Research conducted by the Education Endowment Fund concludes that common barriers to learning for pupil premium children cover a range of areas. Examples include: weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, inconsistent support at home, more frequent behaviour difficulties and attendance issues.

We will ensure that all pupils identified as being eligible for support through Pupil Premium funding have appropriate levels of support to ensure they have equal opportunity in all aspects of their education, and recover from the disrupted period of learning caused by the pandemic.

Principles

• Quality First Teaching, targeted interventions and effective assessment meet the needs of all pupils.

• All children have access to the same opportunities within the curriculum and through participation in all-curricular activities.

Merit PRU has 50% of children identified as pupil premium. This is well above the 2023 national figure of 23.8%.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Analysis of Pupil premium pupil's attendance shows that prior to starting at Merit, 94% were persistently absent (missed more than 10% of school sessions), and this included 71% who were severely absent (missed more than 50% of school sessions). This compares to Non-Pupil premium pupil's attendance prior to starting at Merit, in which 100% were persistently absent, and 53% were severely absent. Average attendance prior to starting at Merit for Pupil premium pupils was 37%, compared to 43% for Non-Pupil premium pupils. Analysis of Pupil premium pupil's current attendance shows that 71% are persistently absent, and this includes 35% who are severely absent. This compares to Non-Pupil premium pupil's current attendance which shows 59% are persistently absent, and 6% are severely absent.

	Average attendance currently at Merit for Pupil premium pupils is 62%, compared to 87% for Non-Pupil premium pupils. Whole school attendance is up from 70% last year to 74% this year. However, absenteeism, particularly persistent absenteeism, will continue to negatively impact our pupil premium pupils, and is an area that we continually address.
2	Reading tests which produce a Standard Age Score (SAS) and allow pupils to be placed on a scale that makes a comparison with a nationally representative sample of the same age across the UK, have been used with all pupils at Merit. The results for Pupil premium pupils at Merit show that 14% have a SAS which is very low, 7% have a SAS which is below average, 43% have a SAS which is average, 36% have a SAS which is above average, and 0% have an SAS which is very high. The results for Non-Pupil premium pupils at Merit show that 0% have a SAS which is very low, 38% have a SAS which is below average, 31% have a SAS which is average, 19% have a SAS which is above average, and 13% have an SAS which is very high.
3	Through pupil voice, tutor time conversations and initial home visits, we have identified that a significant number of pupils in our school are experiencing food poverty. The Education Endowment Fund highlights there is evidence that providing free, universal breakfast clubs can benefit pupils by preparing them for learning or supporting behaviour and school attendance.

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
Pupil Premium pupil's attendance will be in line with the national average for all pupils.	Pupil Premium pupil's attendance rises to be in line with national average. Pupil Premium pupil's persistent absence is reduced. Pupil Premium pupil's severe absence is reduced.
Standard Age Scores will be improved for all Pupil Premium pupils who are below national average.	Pupil Premium pupil's overall reading scale will have increased. Pupil Premium pupil's overall sentence completion scale will have increased. Pupil Premium pupil's overall passage comprehension will have increased.
Pupil Premium pupil's will engage with the break-time breakfast club.	Pupil Premium pupil's attendance increases.

	Pupil Premium pupil's engagement for learning (EFL) scores are outstanding or good.

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: £9,991

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Student success through empowered teaching, equipping teachers with focused teaching support and professional development such as UPQLT.	Education Endowment Fund says "Good quality teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils".	2
Reading intervention will be embedded across the school where pupils will be taught explicit reading strategies leading to improved reading ages.	Education Endowment Fund research states that reading comprehension strategies are high impact and, on average, add +6 months.	2

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

Budgeted cost: £6,931

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
One to one and small group reading intervention will be embedded across the school where pupils	Education Endowment Fund research states that reading comprehension strategies are high impact and, on average, add +6 months.	2

will be taught explicit reading strategies leading to improved reading ages.		

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

Budgeted cost: £7,280

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Education Welfare Officer and attendance team monitor and respond to patterns of absence, making home visits, arranging attendance meetings and supporting pupils to reengage with learning.	Education Endowment Fund states that “Poor attendance at school is linked to poor academic attainment across all stages. Some parental communication approaches and targeted parental engagement interventions show promise in supporting pupil attendance”.	1,2
Raise aspirations for pupils through independent careers advice and guidance.	Independent advice and guidance support through personalised interviews raise motivation by providing them with clear pathways.	1
Continued offer of free breakfast to all pupils, in all year groups.	The Education Endowment Fund highlights there is evidence that providing free, universal breakfast clubs can benefit pupils by preparing them for learning or supporting behaviour and school attendance.	3

Total budgeted cost: £24,202

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for pupil premium pupils

Attendance for Pupil Premium pupils was an average of 74%, compared to a whole school average attendance of 70%. 86% of Pupil Premium pupils had an improved attendance compared to when they attended mainstream school.

Pupil Premium pupil's GCSE outcomes were in line with the whole school outcomes:

Pupil Premium	Number of pupils	% Achieving Grades 4-9	% Achieving Grades 5-9
English & Maths	4	50.00%	50.00%
English Language	4	50.00%	50.00%
English Literature	4	50.00%	25.00%
Mathematics	4	50.00%	50.00%
Combined Science 1	4	50.00%	50.00%
Combined Science 2	4	50.00%	50.00%
Geography	4	25.00%	0.00%
Religious Studies	4	50.00%	50.00%

All pupils	Number of pupils	% Achieving Grades 4-9	% Achieving Grades 5-9
English & Maths	14	57.00%	21.00%
English Language	14	43.00%	29.00%
English Literature	11	55.00%	18.00%
Mathematics	14	64.00%	43.00%
Combined Science 1	11	73.00%	55.00%
Combined Science 2	11	64.00%	45.00%
Single Science	2	0.00%	0.00%
Geography	12	17.00%	0.00%
Religious Studies	11	45.00%	36.00%

Pupil Premium pupils had a higher percentage grade improvement across the year in all subjects compared to the whole school:

Year Progress Analysis %											
Group	Grades	English %	Pupils	Maths %	Pupils	Science %	Pupils	Geography %	Pupils	RE	Pupils
ALL	Higher Grade	74%	23.0	87%	27.0	89%	25.0	93%	27.0	85%	23.0
	Same Grade	19%	6	13%	4.0	7%	2.0	7%	2.0	4%	1.0
	Lower Grade	6%	2	0%	0.0	4%	1.0	0%	0.0	11%	3.0
Pupil Premium	Higher Grade	87%	13.0	93%	14.0	92%	12.0	100%	14.0	92%	12.0
	Same Grade	13%	2.0	7%	1.0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	8%	1.0
	Lower Grade	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	8%	1.0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0

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
Emotional Literacy Support Assistant	Summit Psychology Services
Reading	Bedrock / GL Assessment

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information: **How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year**
N/A
The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils