

Pupil premium Policy

Principles

All members of staff and governors accept responsibility for 'socially disadvantaged' pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within a caring special school environment. This is an essential, integral part of the supportive ethos of the whole school community.

As with every child in our care, a child who is considered to be 'socially disadvantaged' is valued, respected and entitled to develop to his/her full potential, irrespective of need.

Background

The pupil premium is a Government initiative that targets extra money at pupils from deprived backgrounds, which research shows underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The premium is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their potential. It is in addition to any funding the pupil may receive to support their special educational needs.

The Government have used pupils entitled to Free School meals 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 Free School meals. This fixed amount of money will increase every year of the course of this current Parliament. At Loxwood school we will be using the indicator of those eligible for Free School meals as our target children to 'narrow the gap' regarding attainment.

The Government are not dictating how schools should spend this money, but are clear that schools will need to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment, and 'narrow the gap'. Schools will be accountable for narrowing the gap, and there is a planned reform to the school performance tables to include new measures that show the attainment of pupils who receive the pupil premium compared with their peers.

Provision

In order to meet the above requirements, the Governing Body of Loxwood School will ensure that provision is made which secures the teaching and learning opportunities that meet the needs of all pupils. Our priority in the academic year 2014-2015 will be focussed on 'narrowing the gap' for those pupils not on track to achieve the individual targets set for them.

As part of the additional provision made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, the Governors of the school will ensure that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are assessed and addressed through termly pupil progress meetings, and planned and recorded intervention strategies.

In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, the Governors of the school recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.

The Governors also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. The Governors reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil, or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils.

The range of provision

Facilitating pupils' access to education

- Facilitating pupils' access to broader curriculum opportunities
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities
- Alternative support and intervention

A member of the Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Headteacher, will maintain an on-going programme of support for socially disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils, which will be monitored by the Governors' Standards Teaching and Learning Committee.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of a member of the SLT, to produce a termly report for the Governor's Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee on:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision that was made during the term 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.

It will be the responsibility of the Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee to ensure an outline of the school's progress towards 'narrowing the gap' for socially disadvantaged/ vulnerable pupils is given to the school's Governors on a termly basis.

The governing body will consider the information provided from the Teaching and Learning Committee in the light of the data relating to the progress of the school's socially disadvantaged/ vulnerable pupils in conjunction with national data sets.

The Governors of Loxwood School will ensure that there is an annual statement to the parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department for Education.

Success Criteria

The evaluation of this policy is based on how quickly the school can 'narrow the gap' between socially disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Targets will be identified and evaluated annually and included in the School Development Plan.

The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

Early intervention and support for socially disadvantaged children

- The vast majority of socially disadvantaged children will meet their individual targets.
- Effective parental pupil school support.
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils.
- Having a whole-school approach.
- Create a positive school atmosphere in which pupils' differences are recognised and valued as full members of the school community; developing confident and independent learners.

Appeals

Any appeal in connection with the disposition of the pupil premium funding will be dealt with through the Governors' appeals panel.

Member of staff Responsible: Mrs Winter & Mrs Bourne

Date of original policy: Summer 2014

Next Review Date: Summer 2017