

# The Willows Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

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

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

## School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	Approx. 400
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	30%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended</b> )	2023 - 2026
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be first reviewed	December 2025
Next review	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	PPG Governor

## Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	Pupil premium (91 x £1515) - £137,865 LAC (2 x £2630) - £5260 Service Children (5x £350)- £1750
Pupil premium (and recovery premium*) funding carried forward from previous years ( <i>enter £0 if not applicable</i> )	£0 No carry forward
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b>	<b>Total - £144875</b>

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

At The Willows Primary School we strive to achieve the best for every child in our care. We believe that pupils should be given the opportunity to reach their potential and succeed regardless of their background or ability.

Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. Evidence shows that disadvantaged children generally face additional challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as other pupils. Pupils looked after by the local authority and the children of armed service personnel are entitled to this premium in addition to any children who are currently entitled to or have been entitled to free school meals in the last six years.

As a school we decide how the allocated pupil premium funding should be spent. We consider each child as a unique individual and decide what additional provision should be made for them to reduce the attainment gap between the highest and lowest achieving pupils nationally.

The key principles of our strategy:

- ☐ To promote an ethos of high expectations, aspirations and attainment for all
- ☐ To use a graduated approach to reduce barriers to learning and ensure pupils' needs are met
- ☐ To ensure high quality teaching for all pupils
- ☐ Pupils' needs are identified quickly and accurately
- ☐ PPG pupil progress is rigorously monitored – data is analysed and used effectively
- ☐ Strategies are adapted and adjusted where necessary to ensure that they make a sustained difference to pupils' opportunities and experiences
- ☐ To develop self-esteem and confidence of identified disadvantaged and vulnerable children
- ☐ To ensure all children to have access to an enriched quality curriculum
- ☐ To develop children's literacy skills, including oral language and communication, so that vocabulary knowledge, reading and writing outcomes are improved
- ☐ To develop children's numeracy and arithmetic skills, so that their mental fluency and outcomes in maths are improved

Our ultimate objectives are:

- ☐ To raise attainment of underachieving and vulnerable PPG pupils in order to overcome gaps in learning and ensure that they make expected/accelerated progress
- ☐ To narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
A	<p>Ensuring the highest quality teaching and use of personalisation to meet needs of dual needs PPG pupils (PPG + SEND)</p> <p><b><i>Our assessments and observations show that some of our pupil premium children do not make accelerated progress allowing them to reach age related expectations or above at the end of the year in core subjects.</i></b></p>
B	<p>A large proportion of our pupil premium children have additional needs – severe and complex SEND, SEND, involvement with external local authority agencies such as social services. Complex situations in some cases with a large number of external agencies involved in supporting the family</p> <p><b><i>Some of our pupil premium children also have complex needs such as having an additional special need or emotional need, which can negatively impact on their progress and attainment.</i></b></p>
C	<p>Children's lack of knowledge of vocabulary and early literacy skills – this often results in poor oral language skills which impacts the ability to read and write.</p> <p><b><i>Our assessments, observations and discussions show that some of our pupil premium children enter EYFS with lower language and vocabulary skills than some of our non-pupil premium children. This impacts on learning outcomes throughout EYFS to KS2.</i></b></p>
D	<p>Poor attendance of PPG pupils – school attendance not a high priority</p> <p><b><i>Monitoring shows that PPG children make up the majority of persistent absentees. Persistent absenteeism means that some of our pupil premium children do not make accelerated progress allowing them to reach age related expectations or above at the end of the year in core subjects</i></b></p>
E	<p>A lack of parental engagement with school and in some cases lack of support for school systems and routines such as reading at home, behaviour policy etc</p> <p><b><i>Our assessments show that some of our PPG children are impacted by a lack of support for education at home – often shown through not prioritising reading, homework or consistent attendance</i></b></p>

## 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 raise attainment of underachieving and vulnerable pupils in order to overcome gaps in learning and ensure that they make expected/accelerated progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Graduated approach is used to ensure pupils' needs are met</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children's educational gaps in core subjects are identified and interventions or additional teaching are provided</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Providing small group work with an experienced teacher or specialist teaching assistant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To provide training for additional adults in school to ensure effectively targeted support for underachieving and disadvantaged pupils</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special educational needs are identified quickly to allow for targeted support</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> PPG Children with SEN achieve expected progress from their individual starting points and work towards achieving age related expectations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Providing specialist resources to support children's learning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attendance is closely monitored (expected 95% minimum) and support is offered when attendance is of concern</li> </ul>
High 'quality first teaching' will be a focus for CPD and planning will show how teaching is adapted and adjusted for specific learners to secure progress and reduce barriers to learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of teaching and learning shows that all children are receiving quality first teaching</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Staff CPD has a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dual needs SEND PPG pupils have improved access to high quality teaching and a graduated approach to ensure their needs are met</li> </ul>
To develop self-esteem and confidence of identified vulnerable pupils - fostering positive peer and parent relationships and removing social and emotional barriers to learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Subsidising/funding the cost of planned residential trips, educational activities or extra-curricular activities throughout the year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Providing small group work with a specialist teaching assistant e.g. ELSA, social skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral and welfare support provided for children and families by the pastoral team</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parents are actively involved in supporting their child's social, emotional and behaviour difficulties</li> </ul>
Children's literacy, including oral language and communication strategies, will be developed so that vocabulary knowledge, spelling and writing outcomes are improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Staff CPD on language and literacy increase confidence in this area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continued involvement in the ECAT programme with a focus on effective induction and CPD for new staff</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use of the I CAN toolkit to improve communication strategies for PPG learners in the EYFS</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Key strategies used to promote vocabulary across all year groups – songs, rhymes, chatterboxes, vocabulary mats - as evidenced by monitoring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children achieve early learning goals in communication and language at the end of reception</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children are confident to talk to others and share their ideas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children listen to and read a wide range of quality texts to enhance vocabulary acquisition</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children's writing shows evidence of good vocabulary</li> </ul>
To improve the basic fluency reading skills for PPG learners who have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Targeted use of Keep Up reading intervention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Targeted use of Catch Up reading intervention</li> </ul>

not yet achieved age-related expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily Reading practice sessions in KS1 <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Reading Fluency sessions across KS2 <input type="checkbox"/> Improved fluency to be able to access text at an age-appropriate level <input type="checkbox"/> Additional home-school support – phonics workshops for parents
To support our most able disadvantaged readers to read regularly and access high quality texts both in school and at home	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote the use of the Reading grids including funding access to key texts on the map to engage PPG readers <input type="checkbox"/> Additional home-school support – reading workshops for parents <input type="checkbox"/> PP children make better progress in reading as a result of improved access to better quality texts both at home and at school <input type="checkbox"/> PP children achieve in line with non-PP children – closing the gap
To develop children's numeracy and arithmetic skills, so that their mental fluency and outcomes in maths are improved	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted use to support Early Bird Maths sessions <input type="checkbox"/> Additional home-school support – maths workshops for parents
Funding places for PP children in extra-curricular clubs and activities and trips, providing necessary equipment such as PE kits.	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving PP children the opportunity to access activities that help develop the 'whole child' and put them on an equal footing with non-PP children <input type="checkbox"/> Extra-curricular opportunities to enrich learning and support home/school partnership <input type="checkbox"/> PPG children participate in extra-curricular activities <input type="checkbox"/> Children participate in enrichment activities that are on offer

## Activity for last academic year – actual costs for 24/25

## Planned activity for next year – budgeted costs for 25/26

This details how we have spent our pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding **last academic year** to address the challenges listed above and 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)

**Actual Costs 24/25: £56904.84**

**Budgeted cost 25/26: £52,040.00**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
INSET day and staff meetings	<b>EEF guide to pupil progress – tiered approach.</b> <b>EEF teaching and learning toolkit.</b> All teachers are aware of disadvantaged pupils. Teachers are aware of the children that did not make	A, B

Pupil Progress Meetings - looking at internal data (attainment and progress) Looking at EEF evidence of best ways to support disadvantaged pupils	good or better progress in all subjects taught, therefore they can identify how best to support them using the latest evidence as well as their own knowledge and experience. Best practise can be shared.	
Ongoing CPD to increase the quality of teaching and learning  Dual needs SEND PPG pupils had improved access to high quality teaching and a more personalised provision/curriculum experience	<b>EEF guide to pupil premium – tiered approach – high quality teaching. Sutton Trust- quality first teaching has direct impact on student outcomes.</b> Ensure all relevant staff have up to date training in phonics and teaching is consistently good. Subject co-ordinators to monitor the teaching and learning of their subject and provide, or signpost appropriate CPD and support when needed. The EEF document states that good quality teaching helps every child.	A, B
Vocabulary rich environment <i>Specific intervention and resources that support and promote vocabulary development and retention</i>	<b>EEF (+5) – oral language interventions consistently show positive impact on learning. Sutton trust toolkit – oral language interventions.</b> Pupils are exposed to regular rhymes, singing, books and discussion to acquire new vocabulary. Vocabulary is a focus at the beginning of each new unit of work across subjects and pupils are exposed to subject specific vocabulary using specifically designed vocabulary mats. ECAT programme in place. Speech and language therapy plans in place for children that require it.	C

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

Actual Costs 24/25: £57395.18

Budgeted cost 25/26: £56,185.00

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Reading for pleasure Reading for Pleasure grids – KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 To support our PPG and most able disadvantaged readers to read regularly and access high quality texts both in school and at home	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote the use of the Reading for grids Maps including funding access to key texts on the map to engage PPG readers <input type="checkbox"/> To purchase one of the recommended books for their age group in order to support reading access at home <input type="checkbox"/> Take One Book initiative implemented in all year groups following staff training	A, C
Interventions – language, reading, writing and maths.	<b>EEF (+4)</b>	A, B, C

ECAT, I CAN, Catch Up Write from the Start Specific group interventions based on closing gaps from LAPs and NAPs	Teaching by trained staff through evidence-based interventions that show rapid progress. Pre-teaching for children that benefit from vocabulary support. Speech and Language intervention provided by qualified SENCO	
Little Wandle Catch Up Intervention and Support	<b>EEF (+4)</b> Teaching by trained staff through evidence-based interventions that show rapid progress.	A, B,
Academic Mentoring through an identified welfare lead in school	<b>EEF (+4), Sutton Trust (+5)</b> Evidence shows that 1:1 and small group mentoring is effective Pastoral and welfare Lead role provides identified PPG children with academic mentoring in lessons to ensure that they have the opportunities and motivation to reach their full potential	A, B

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

**Actual Costs 24/25: £38,144.26**

**Budgeted cost 25/26: £36,480.00**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Engaging with families  Funding for Pastoral Support Workers  Improving attendance and readiness to learn	<b>EEF toolkit – parental engagement (+3) Sutton trust – parental involvement (+3).</b> <b>EEF shows that social and emotional learning has a moderate impact (+4) for children who require further social and emotional development and their ability to interact with others.</b> Providing parent support through 1:1 support, workshops and reference to external agencies Providing small group work with a specialist teaching assistant e.g. ELSA, social skills Focussed intervention and support Support from ELSA if emotional difficulties are impacting education.	D, E
Activities to enhance the curriculum and	<b>Sutton Trust – sports participation (+2)</b>	A, D, E



<p>provide wider learning experiences.</p> <p>To ensure PPG children have access to educational visits and extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Children who are exposed to wider learning experiences have a better understanding of the world. Increased exposure to opportunities allows for higher aspirations. Remove finance or practical reasons as a barrier to experiences.</p> <p>Without this funding, majority of our PPG children would not be able to experience extra-curricular activities or residential or educational visits.</p>	
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**Total actual cost 24/25: £152,444.28**

**Total budgeted cost 25/26: £144,705**



## Part B: Review of the previous academic year

### Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

% Achieved Expected <i>Colour coding shows school against national figures</i>					
	School	National	LA	School Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged
Prime Learning Goals	81.8%	75.3%	79.7%	50%	60.9%
Communication & Languages	84.1%	79.6%	84.6%	50%	67.4%
PSED	93.2%	83.2%	85.5%	100%	72.4%
Physical Development	97.7%	84.8%	88.2%	100%	74.1%
Literacy	86.4%	70.6%	75.6%	50%	53.6%
Comprehension	90.9%	80.5%	87.7%	75%	67.7%
Word Reading	86.4%	76.6%	81.4%	50%	60.6%
Writing	86.4%	71.9%	76.2%	50%	54.9%
Maths	81.8%	77.8%	83%	50%	62.8%
Understanding The World	81.8%	80.5%	86.9%	50%	67.8%
Expressive Arts & Design	97.7%	85.2%	90.6%	100%	75.5%
GLD Good Level of Development	81.8%	68.4%	72.4%	50%	51.5%
All EYFSP Goals	79.5%	67%	71.9%	50%	49.9%

% Achieved Working at Outcome <i>Colour coding shows school against national figures</i>					
	School	National	LA	School Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged
Y1 Phonics Check	87%	80.2%	78.2%	91.7%	66.7%
Y2 Phonics	87.5%	50.6%	56.5%	85.7%	44.1%
KS1 Phonics	87.1%	75.2%	74.2%	89.5%	60.8%

Y4 MTC	School	Region	LA	School Disadvantaged	LA Disadvantaged
Average Score	20.6	20.7	21	18.3	18.6
21-25	59.3%	63.3%	65.7%	38.9	44.9

% Achieved Expected <i>Colour coding shows school against national figures</i>					
	School	National	LA	School Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged
Reading	81.4%	75.1%	73.7%	81.3%	63.2%
Writing TA	69.5%	72.3%	67.1%	56.3%	59.4%
SPAG	86.4%	72.6%	70%	75%	59.8%
Maths	84.7%	74.1%	70.3%	68.8%	60.5%
RWMA	66.1%	62.2%	57%	56.3%	47.4%

<b>% Achieved Greater Depth</b> <i>Colour coding shows school against national figures</i>					
	School	National	LA	School Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged
Reading	37.3%	33.3%	33.7%	18.8%	21.3%
Writing TA	18.6%	12.8%	9.4%	6.3%	6.6%
SPAG	37.3%	29.6%	27.3%	31.3%	18.6%
Maths	32.2%	26.3%	25%	18.8%	15.1%
RWMA	11.9%	8.4%	5.8%	0%	3.6%

<b>Average Scaled Scores</b> <i>Colour coding shows school against national figures</i>					
	School	National	LA	School Disadvantaged	National Disadvantaged
Reading	107.3	105.6	105.4	106.7	103
SPAG	108	105.4	104.8	106.2	102.6
Maths	106.9	104.7	104.1	105.4	101.8

## 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	N/A