



Deneholm Primary School

Pupil Premium Policy

September 2023

To be reviewed September 2025

We believe that our children have an equal entitlement and should have equal opportunities to acquire skills, abilities and attributes and develop imagination, creativity and a love for learning in order to reach their full potential.

We aim to support all disadvantaged pupils and that support will be linked to their needs.

We encourage families to register for FSM since the introduction of pupil premium funding.

Key Principles

- Expectations are high for all pupils. We do not equate deprivation and challenge with low ability.
- Not all pupils who qualify for FSM are socially disadvantaged and not all socially disadvantaged pupils qualify or are registered for FSM. We therefore focus on the needs and levels of progress of all pupils.
- All teaching and learning strategies are designed to meet the needs of individuals and groups. Additional support is integrated into the teaching programme.
- Research, trialing and self-evaluation are used in order to allocate the funding to activities that are most likely to have an impact on achievement.
- In providing support we will not socially isolate pupils. Therefore it is likely that all groups receiving additional support will be a mix of FSM and non-FSM pupils.

How we will make decisions regarding the use of Pupil Premium

When making decisions about using pupil premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school and the subsequent challenges faced. Common barriers for FSM children can be less support at home, weak language skills, and lack of confidence, more frequent behavioural difficulties, and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied. 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.
- Use the latest evidence based research on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils
- 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
- 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
- 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.

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 teacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Head of School along with the Senior Leadership Team, 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.

Our DHT is the PP lead.

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 roles. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

Governing body

The DHT will produce annual reports for the Governors on:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils
- An outline of the provisions
- 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 Trust Board will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents and carers on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils. This statement will be published on the schools website.

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.

At the end of the academic year, our Governors will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents 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.

Monitoring and reviewing of 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 every two years 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.

