Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2023 to 2024 academic year) 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 effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Acorn Academy
Number of pupils in school	237 (+ 31 nursery)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	29.5%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers **(3 year plans are recommended)**	2021-2024
Date this statement was published	October 2022
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2023
Statement authorised by	Cheryl Noble, Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Emma Daniels Assistant Headteacher SENDCo
Governor / Trustee lead	Louise Burrows (LGC)

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£126,300
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£12,325
Pupil 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	£138,625

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

At Acorn Academy our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress across all subject areas.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activities we have outlined in this statement are also intended to support their needs, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

High-quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on the challenges over which we have control that are having the most significant detrimental impact on our disadvantaged pupils.

Our strategy is also integral to wider school plans for education recovery, notably in its targeted support through the school-led tutoring programme for pupils whose education has been worst affected, including non-disadvantaged pupils.

We will consider all evidence available to us, including EEF and will ensure that strategies used match the context of Acorn Academy.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	**Speech, language and communication skills** Assessments, observations, and discussions with children indicate underdeveloped language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident from Nursery to Year 2 and in general, are more prevalent among our disadvantaged children than their peers.
2	**Reading** Our assessments suggest that disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers. This negatively impacts their development as readers.

3	**Wellbeing** Our observations and discussions with children and families have identified social and emotional issues for many children. These challenges affect disadvantaged pupils in a range of ways, including their attainment.
4	**Attendance** Our attendance data indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils is around 0.9% lower than for non-disadvantaged pupils. Our assessments and observations indicate that poor attendance is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress.

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
Improved speech, language and communication skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils.	Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved speech, language and communication skills among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment.
High quality teaching and learning of reading, writing and maths in all classes.	Outcomes at the end of KS1 demonstrate national average attainment or higher by 2024-25 in reading, writing and maths. Strong internal evidence of progress made by all children, including disadvantaged children.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	By 2024-25, improved wellbeing will be demonstrated by: • qualitative data from the children and from parent surveys and teacher observations • an increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	By 2024-25, overall attendance of statutory school age children will be 96%+, with an improving trend seen from the end of the 2022-23 academic year. By 2024-25, levels of persistent absenteeism will be at or below pre-COVID national levels of 8.25%.

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: **£61,900**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To ensure high quality teaching and learning of reading through extensive CPD on the teaching of reading and writing. Purchase of additional high-quality reading and phonics materials. Purchase of English consultant time to assist with English development. Purchase high quality schemes of work and associated resources.	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-early-years https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-ks-1 Jonathan Bond Education Consultancy www.kapowprimary.com CPD for all staff to develop curriculum using new resources.	1, 2, 3, 4
Increase professional skills and expertise of classroom staff in the teaching specific groups of children including SEND and disadvantaged.	Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools | EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) New EEF research points way to closing disadvantage gap by 38%… | EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) High quality CPD through external consultants. High quality adaptive teaching carefully targeted through identification and assessment of need – To be managed carefully by Disadvantaged lead/SENCo.	1, 2

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

Budgeted cost: **£31,985 = *£19,660 (+£12,325 recovery premium)***

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To improve the percentage of children working at ARE+ across the curriculum through speech and language therapy support via a speech and language therapist and via additional classroom based support.	Oral language interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' language skills. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: Oral language interventions | EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) Talk boost interventions across Reception and KS1. Develop strategies from SLCN provision to use across the school to support identified children.	1
To improve the percentage of children working at ARE+ across the curriculum by identification and assessment of children's individual needs. £12,325 – Recovery premium to be used to fund targeted small group support to close the gap for DA.	High quality teaching - supported by small group and one to one support carefully targeted through identification and assessment of need – To be managed carefully by Disadvantaged lead/SENCo. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/send Educational Psychologist assessments to form part of the package which identifies children's needs.	2

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

Budgeted cost: **£44,740**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To improve pupil wellbeing and attendance and readiness to learn via consistent family support via the school's home/school liaison officer.	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel	3, 4

To improve attendance via soft start/ breakfast club every morning for all children.	Embedding principles of good practice set out in the DfE's Improving School Attendance advice. Breakfast Clubs | Greggs Foundation	
To ensure access to full enrichment offer, including access to outdoor learning through educational trips and visits and outdoor lunchtime clubs	https://www.awwltd.com/the-benefits-of-outdoor-education-on-mental-health/ World Health Organisation findings show that children raised with exposure to green space are as much as 55% less likely to develop mental health problems such as substance abuse, stress-related illnesses and eating disorders.	3, 4
Support nutrition and a good start to the day via the provision of free milk to all disadvantaged children. To improve nutrition and offer a calm start to the day via soft start/ breakfast club every morning for all children.	https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/milk-and-dairy-nutrition/ Milk is a good source of energy and protein and contains a wide range of vitamins and minerals, including calcium, essential for the development of young children's bones and teeth. Breakfast Clubs | Greggs Foundation	3

Total budgeted cost: £138,625

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

There was significant impact from our new strategies to improve quality-first teaching, as evidenced by improved academic outcomes for the Year 2 cohort over the last academic year. Internal assessments (moderated) indicate similar accelerated progress across the school, particularly our Year 1 cohort. Our Year 2 outcomes were at least in line with national average, but we are aware that a large gap within our disadvantaged children's attainment remains. This continues to be addressed with the activities and monitoring detailed in this plan. Overall attendance in the academic year 2022-23 was 92.2%. Families welcomed the support of the school's home/school liaison officer and there has been some success in improving attendance for families that she has supported. Pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly improved and there was a shift in the culture of our school. We introduced a soft start to our mornings which included activities and breakfast for all children. This has improved attendance, punctuality, and general behaviour. We used pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils. We continue to build on that approach with the activities detailed in this plan.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
Speech and Language therapy	C&D speech and language therapy
Educational Psychology support	Aspire Educational Psychology
English Planning Kit	Jonathan Bond Consultancy