



Mark Cross CEA Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Joanna Challis | Head of School: Mrs Alma Scales

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Mark Cross Pupil Premium Report Sept 2023 – Aug 2024

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils. This report evidences the impact that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

The report also highlights our pupil premium strategy for 2024 - 2025, and how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	97
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	7%
Academic Year	2023 - 2024
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Pupil Premium Lead	Mrs Alma Scales
Governor Lead	Mr Robert French

Part A: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year 2023 - 2024

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£8,793
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years	£2,052
Total budget for this academic year	£10,845

Pupil Premium Strategy Outcomes

The impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year:

- PPG children are receiving support to aim for them to make steady progress in Reading, Writing and Maths through additional staff in class to support them
- Attendance for PPG children was above 92%
- Pupil voice indicates that PPG pupils are happy to come to school and are supported.
- All pupils were able to access extra-curricular activities including trips, residential activity experience, extra-curricular clubs.
- Ofsted Apr 2024 reported that PPG pupils were well supported and took part in wider school activities well.

Item	Commitment from Pupil Premium Allocation	Commentary on progress and effectiveness
Access to counselling support and/or ELSA	£1,925	<p>Wellbeing of targeted children has increased, resulting in greater engagement within school through access to a trained external counsellor who attends in school 1 x half a day per week. Most children do not see the counsellor long-term, indicating that the intervention has been successful.</p> <p>Attendance has improved amongst vulnerable pupils and ESBA incidents are reducing.</p>
Financial support to allow access to enrichment activities & subscriptions	£878	<p>Targeted children fully engaged with school and able to participate in same activities as peers.</p> <p>Subscriptions (Speechlink, Doodle Learning, Nessy Read & Spell licenses) used to identify and help close any attainment gaps. Data indicates accelerated progress for some children in reading and spelling.</p>
<p>Staff to run interventions targeting identified gaps in progress</p> <p>Specialist reading teacher to run interventions targeting identified gaps in progress and provide CPD</p>	£8042	<p>Targeted children making expected or accelerated progress in areas of intervention (reading, writing & maths)</p> <p>Regular training for existing staff; and comprehensive training for new staff and volunteers have increased staff expertise and confidence, leading to increased progress for targeted children.</p>
Access to high quality sport / PE available to all pupils (and CPD for staff)	(funded from Sports grant)	<p>Qualified coach to supporting teachers in PE sessions has led to better practice and ability for teachers to focus on vulnerable groups.</p> <p>After school sessions attended well by PPG pupils</p> <p>PPG pupils have taken part in school team events across the county, both competitive and skills development.</p>
Total Spend	£10,845	

Part B: Pupil Premium Strategy for 2025 – 2026

Funding Overview for Sept 2025 – August 2026

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	87
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	6%
Academic Year	2024 - 2025
Date this statement was published	December 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Pupil Premium Lead	Mrs Alma Scales
Governor Lead	Mr Rob French

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£8263
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year	£8,263

Statement of Intent

Pupil Premium is a government grant which is allocated to schools based on the number of children eligible for free school meals and the number of children who are or have been looked after by the Local Authority, referred to as 'looked-after children'. Schools are entitled to spend their allocated Pupil Premium Grant in a way they think will best improve attainment and achievement for these children. More information is available on the Department for Education website.

<https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

At Mark Cross we are determined to give every child access to high quality teaching to enable them to reach their potential. For teachers to be able to give the most attention to the children in their care, we also believe that a high quality teaching assistant in every class is also essential. This combination of high quality teaching through a partnership in the classroom, has led to historically good National results at Mark Cross; a trend we wish to continue.

Challenges

We have identified the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils. Pupil Premium is used at Mark Cross to remove any barriers to learning which may exist. These include:

1. Supporting positive mental health, promoting positive attitudes to learning and to raise self-esteem and positive social interactions.
2. Supporting pupils with emotional and mental well-being
3. Reducing any gaps in learning and progress which may occur (in relation to those not in receipt of Pupil Premium) due to a child being disadvantaged. The school has identified these gaps in the areas of speech and language, reading and writing.
4. Providing additional support to Pupil Premium children who are also SEND.
5. Developing a curriculum which can be fully accessed by those children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium. By seeking opportunities for this group of children to make links in their learning, a greater level of engagement and progress can be attained.
6. Providing financial support for Pupil Premium children to access extra-curricular activities and educational visits.

Activity in this academic year

This section of the report details how we intend to spend our Pupil Premium (and recovery premium funding) **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

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

Budgeted cost: £8263

Activity	Action to meet/ what would be a success?	Challenge number(s) addressed
Access to counselling support and/or ELSA	Provision of nurture and counselling sessions for specific groups/ individuals with a trained counsellor or ELSA mentor. Work closely with families who may be struggling with home issues - link them in with local services. Daily regular touch-base sessions for children with an identified member of staff who can then put support in place.	1 2 4
		Evidence that supports this approach
		Research has shown that metacognition and self-regulation improve progress. EEF research suggests this is as much as an +8 month improvement. EEF research also suggests a +4 month improvement where children have access to a trained counsellor which enables them to feel safe, happy and ready to learn

Activity	Action to meet/ what would be a success?	Challenge number(s) addressed
Financial support to allow access to enrichment activities	Enrichment opportunities include swimming, dance, sports clubs, music lessons and access to all school trips. Support for residential trips, class trips and events. Equipment within school provided e.g. football boots and gum shields in PE All pupils able to access the full range of curriculum and extra-curricular offering	5
		Evidence that supports this approach
		EEF research suggests a +4 month improvement where disadvantaged children participate in outdoor and adventurous activities alongside their peers

Activity	Action to meet / What would be success?	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Staff to run interventions targeting identified gaps in progress</p> <p>Specialist reading teacher to run interventions targeting identified gaps in progress and provide CPD</p>	<p>In class support by trained TAs to ensure that all PPG children can maximise their learning. Small groups run during the school day targeting a particular area of need.</p> <p>Reading teacher employed x 1 morning per week to read with children plus additional sessions to train staff on a regular basis, run workshops for parents and be present at parent consultations.</p> <p>Reading teacher supporting small groups in written comprehension skills x 1 session per week at various points in the year.</p>	<p>2 3 4</p> <p>Evidence that supports this approach</p> <p>EEF research indicates +5 month improvements where vulnerable pupils have access to increased support</p>
<p>Access to high quality sport / PE available to all pupils (and CPD for staff)</p> <p>(funded from Sports grant)</p>	<p>Qualified coach to support teachers in PE sessions, run lunch time clubs and offer afterschool clubs</p> <p>Encourage PPG pupils to take part in school team events</p>	<p>3, 4, 5</p> <p>Evidence that supports this approach</p> <p>EEF research suggests a +4 month improvement where disadvantaged children participate in outdoor and adventurous activities alongside their peers</p>

Total budgeted cost: £8263 (additional funding will be allocated from school budget)

**Mrs Alma Scales – Head of School
December 2024**