

# St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy



## Pupil Premium Policy

Policy updated: December 2023

Policy Review:

Signed by: *M. A. Galbraith*

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# St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

## Pupil Premium Policy

This policy has been developed to take into consideration our Mercy ethos and local and national policy and guidance. This policy is based on the [pupil premium conditions of grant guidance \(2023-2024\)](#), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. It is also based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service premium](#).

In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on [what academies should publish online](#), and complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## What is the Pupil Premium?

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

## The Pupil Premium in St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

All staff will work with a focus on the Academy ethos:

- Christ centred
- Faith enlightened
- Building communities
- The education of the poor, particularly women and girls
- Pursuit of excellence

We recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential. We also believe that every child should get support not just those who receive Pupil Premium. All teachers believe that every single child can achieve. All own the successes and everyone is responsible. Deprivation is a barrier not an excuse.

## Use of the grant

Our pupil premium strategy is available here: [Pupil Premium Strategy Statement](#)

We will publish information on the school's use of the pupil premium on the school website in line with the requirements set out in our funding agreement and the DfE's guidance on what academies should publish online, using the templates on [GOV.UK](#).

The government is not instructing schools how they spend the Pupil Premium. It is not ring-fenced and schools can use the money as they see fit. The government is however clear that schools will need to employ strategies that they know will help to support those entitled to Pupil Premium to increase their attainment. Decisions over how the money is spent is the decision of the Head Teacher, having been delegated this responsibility by the Governing Body.

In St Anthony's the following will be important factors in closing the gap:

- Outstanding teaching and learning
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- Staff accountability

The attainment gap will be closed by using waves of intervention:

Wave 1 – Inclusive teaching and learning for all leading to outstanding outcomes for all

Wave 2 – Additional intervention to enable students to meet minimum target grades

Wave 3 – Additional highly personalised intervention. This could include 1:1 mentoring, social and emotional support/behavior management.

For disadvantaged learners, one intervention may not be enough. It will be important to identify the area of greatest need, and have a clear focus on improving learning (not just behavior or attitude). The effects need to be cumulative so tracking and evaluating will be important.

All student progress (including Pupil Premium students) is discussed regularly at every level of leadership in the Academy.

## Eligible pupils

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils in Years 7 – 11.

Eligible pupils fall into the categories explained below.

### Ever 6 free school meals

Pupils recorded in the most recent October school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).

This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent October census.

It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches.

### Looked after children

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales for at least 1 day. Allocations will be provisionally based on the children looked-after data return in March of the previous year, and then confirmed in December of the current year based on the children looked-after data return in March of the current year.

### Post-looked after children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

### Ever 6 service children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census:

- › With a parent serving in the regular armed forces

Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance), including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census

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In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

## Roles and responsibilities

### Headteacher and senior leadership team

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The headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for:

Keeping this policy up to date, and ensuring that it is implemented across the school

- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to the governing board on an ongoing basis
- Publishing information on the school's use of the pupil premium on the school website, as required by our funding agreement and in line with guidance from the DfE

Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment

## **Governors**

The governing board is responsible for:

Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy

Ensuring the school is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant

Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding

Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium

Challenging the headteacher to use the pupil premium in the most effective way

Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

## **Other school staff**

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium
  - Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff

## **Virtual school heads**

Virtual school heads are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority, and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying the eligible looked after children and informing the local authority
- Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked after children benefit without delay
  - Working with each looked after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how pupil premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way
- Demonstrating how pupil premium funding is raising the achievement of looked after children

Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

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## **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

