



Early Years' Pupil Premium Policy

This policy is applicable to all regardless of gender, sexuality, religious belief or none, culture, ethnicity, ability or disability, individuals with protected characteristics and those with none; it does not determine to discriminate against any individual whilst ensuring the smooth operation of our school.

Approved by Governing Body	
Date:	Autumn 2023
Review Date:	Autumn 2024

School Vision

At Lea Nursery School, we have high aspirations and ambitions for our children and we believe that no child should be left behind. We strongly believe that it is not about where you come from but your passion and thirst for knowledge, and your dedication and commitment to learning that make the difference between success and failure, and we are determined to ensure that our children are given every chance to realise their full potential.

Lea Nursery School is a place for everyone to succeed, achieve and thrive.

The targeted and strategic use of pupil premium will support us in achieving this for pupils who attend Lea Nursery School.

Background

The pupil premium is a government initiative that targets extra money at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-disadvantaged peers. The premium is provided to enable these pupils to be supported to reach their potential. The Government has used pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM), looked after children and service children as indicators of deprivation, and have provided a fixed amount of money for schools per pupil based on the number of qualifying pupils. The government believes that the pupil premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022-for-local-authorities>

At Lea Nursery we will be using the indicator of those eligible for pupil premium as well as identified vulnerable groups as our target children to increase attainment.

Context

When making decisions about using pupil premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school, the children who qualify for pupil premium and the subsequent challenges faced. In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who are in the deprivation index will be socially disadvantaged. However some pupil premium children do face barriers to their learning.

Common barriers for pupil premium children can be less support at home, weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, more frequent behaviour difficulties, and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied and there is no “one size fits all”.

Key Principles

By following the key principles below, we believe we can maximise the impact of our pupil premium spending.

We will provide a culture where:

- Staff believe that there are “no limits” to what our children can achieve.
- All staff are aware of who pupil premium and vulnerable children are.
- There are “no excuses” made for underperformance.
- Teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of the pupils.
- Staff adopt a “solution-focused” approach to overcoming barriers.
- Staff support children and families to develop “growth” mind-sets towards learning.

We will maximise the time children have to make progress through:

- Improving parents understanding of the importance of regular attendance and punctuality.
- Providing early intervention and tailoring interventions to the needs of the child.

We will ensure that the additional support we provide is effective by:

- Looking at the individual needs of each child and identifying barriers to learning.
- Ensuring keyworkers and all of the staff team communicate regularly about these children, assessing where they may need more support.
- Using team leaders to provide high quality interventions, matching the skills of the staff member to the interventions they provide.
- Working with other agencies and external providers where appropriate to bring in additional expertise.
- Providing extensive support for parents to develop their own skills so they are better able to support their child's learning within the curriculum and they are better able to manage in times of crisis.
- Recognising and building on children's strengths to further boost confidence.
- Providing (where necessary) completely individualised interventions for set periods of time to support children in times of crisis.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

We will ensure that:

- A wide range of data is used. (For example achievement data, pupils' work, observations, learning walks, case studies, and staff, parent and pupil voice.)
- Assessments are closely moderated to ensure they are accurate.
- Assessment data is collected frequently so that the impact of interventions can be monitored regularly.
- Interventions are adapted or changed if they are not working.
- All staff attend and contribute to pupil progress meetings each term.
- Regular feedback about progress and attainment is given to parents.
- Case studies are used to evaluate the impact of pastoral interventions, such as on attendance and behaviour.
- A designated member of the SLT maintains an overview of pupil premium spending.

When reporting about pupil premium funding we will include:

- Information about the context of the school.
- Objectives for the year with reasons for decision making.
- Nature of support and allocation of funding received.
- A summary of the impact of pupil premium funding.
- Performance of pupil premium children compared to non-pupil premium children.
- Other evidence of impact.
- Implications for pupil premium spending the following year.
- The Governing Body will consider the information provided to ensure that pupil premium funding is used to achieve maximum impact for our children.

The school website will contain information on the allocation, its use and impact on eligible pupils.