

Pupil premium strategy statement: Learning Academy partnership SW: 2024/25 Evaluation – Ellacombe Academy

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium 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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	2,506
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	
1	3 years (2024-2027)
Date this statement was published	31 st September 2024 Updated July '25
Date on which it will be reviewed	1 st December 2025
Statement authorised by	Miss Tracey Cleverly
Pupil premium lead	Mrs Evie Semmens
Governor / Trustee lead	Mrs Jo Tisdall

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£684,780 Amount per pupil To £1,515
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year <i>Recovery premium received in academic year 2023/24 cannot be carried forward beyond August 31, 2024.</i>	£0.00
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0.00
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£ 684,780

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our School Trust is committed to ensuring that every disadvantaged pupil receives the best possible education and that gaps in outcomes are closed in all key outcomes. We want our disadvantaged pupils to flourish in all aspects of their education, with social mobility and sense of belonging as core foundations to this. We do this by investing in people enabling every child to be taught by the very best teachers so that we can achieve social change and all children flourish.

The disruption children and young people have faced to their education during the pandemic has been extensive nationally and will likely continue to have profound consequences. Attainment and educational progress particularly for those disadvantaged has been affected, but so too has their emotional and social development.

This pupil premium strategy plan aims to close the considerable gaps in attainment as a result of the pandemic and mitigate the continued impact of the pandemic on children's lives.

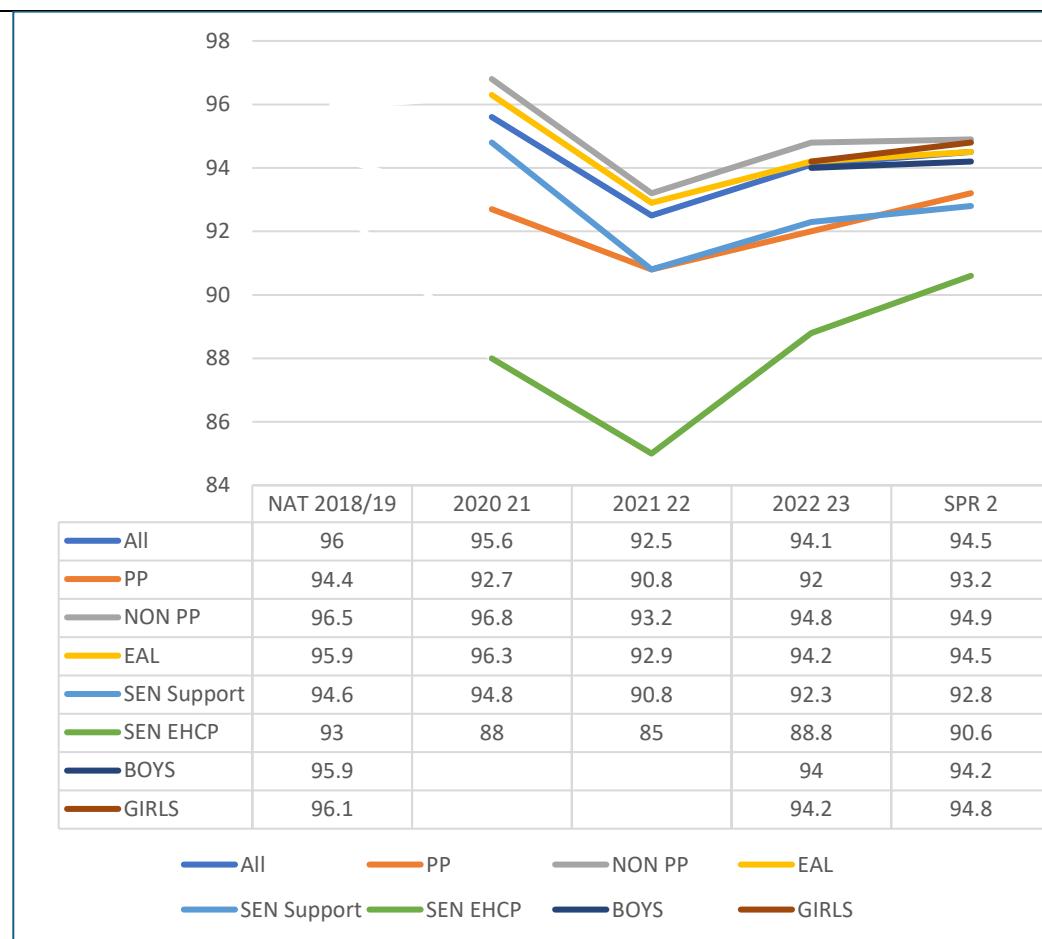
The key principles of this strategy plan is to build sustainable, long-term support in order to overcome the barriers of:

- *Achieving well in the cornerstones of English and Maths, as part of the broad, academic and knowledge rich curriculum.*
- *Good attendance for all pupils, which contributes to their overall academic and emotional wellbeing.*
- *Social, emotional and mental health needs of pupils.*

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Widening gaps for younger eligible pupils (EYFS and KS1) in early reading and overall outcomes, linked to increasing need in communication and language. 2022-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GLD all 78% / pp 56% 22% gap• Y1 PSC all 87% / pp 81% 6% gap• Y2 Reading all 65% / pp 47% 18% gap
2	Wide Writing gaps for eligible pupils, especially in KS1 2022-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS1 all 55% / pp 37% 18% gap• KS2 all 75% / pp 69% 6% gap
3	Wide Maths gaps for eligible pupils. 2022-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS1 all 74% / pp 60% 14% gap• KS2 all 73% / pp 61% 12% gap
4	Attendance rates for eligible groups remain below 'all' and have not returned to pre pandemic levels. Overall attendance and by group.



Persistent Absentee for all and groups.

Groups	2021-22	2022-23	AUT 2 2023	SPR 2 24
ALL	23.5%	14.7%	14.3%	14.0%
PP	29.8%	17.9%	19.8%	19.6%
EHCP	47.8%	43.6%	37.2%	32.7%
SEND Support	23.6%	25.8%	18.7%	19.9%
EAL	17.1%	17.0%	17.3%	17.1%

5	<p>Increase in pupil's social, emotional and mental health needs, with eligible pupils more likely to experience a Fixed Term Suspension.</p> <p>2022-23</p> <p>Trust data shows that 43% of all pupils with a Fixed term Suspension were eligible for PP, meaning that these pupils are twice as likely to receive a suspension than their peers.</p> <p>End of Autumn 2023</p> <p>Trust data shows that 83% of all pupils with a Fixed term Suspension were eligible for PP (Trust PP was 22%), meaning that PP pupils are twice as likely to receive a suspension than their peers.</p>
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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
1. Gaps in outcomes for eligible pupils in EYFS and KS1 are closed. Speech needs are identified early in EYFS, and supported so that more children are reading for the KS1 curriculum. The bottom 20% are targeted in a timely way to ensure that all pupils are reading by age 6.	Gaps in GLD for eligible pupils are reduced to 15% across the Trust, in the first year and reduced to less than 5% by the end of the 3 rd year. Sustain closing gaps in early reading outcomes for eligible pupils continue to be reduced PSC gap less than 5% across the Trust in the 1 st year, and inline by the end of the 3 rd year. Gaps in early reading outcomes for eligible pupils continue to be reduced: end KS1 less than 10% across the Trust in the 1 st year, and inline by the end of the 3 rd year.
2. Gaps in Writing for eligible pupils across the Trust, are closed at both expected and greater depth.	Gaps in Writing outcomes for eligible pupils in KS1 are reduced to 10% in the first year and in line by the end of the 3 rd year. The closing gap in Writing outcomes for eligible pupils in KS2 is sustained and continues to reduce to less than 5% in the first year, and in line by the end of the 3 rd year.
3. Gaps in Maths for eligible pupils across the Trust, are closed at both expected and greater depth.	Gaps in Maths outcomes for eligible pupils in KS1 are reduced to 8% in the first year and in line by the end of the 3 rd year. Gaps in Maths outcomes for eligible pupils in KS2 continue to reduce to 10% in the first year, and in line by the end of the 3 rd year.
4. The gap in Attendance for eligible pupils to close at both attendance and persistent absentees.	Gaps in attendance for eligible pupils to be reduced to less than 1 % in the first year and inline by end of year 3. Gaps in persistent absentees for eligible pupils to be reduced to less than 2% in the first year and inline by end of year 3.
5. Reduce number of eligible pupils reaching suspension levels through: A) Supporting pupils' wider cultural capital development through Residential B) whole Trust Behaviour Policy which is trauma informed and provides practical advice and strategies to schools to embed a relational approach.	Reduce the proportion of eligible pupils receiving a fixed Term Suspension level from 83 % to below 40% of all in the first year and to be in line with 'all' by the end of the 3 rd year.

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: £ £324,342

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Embed a whole Trust approach to the development of communication and language and early reading all schools.</p> <p>Establish a whole Trust EYFS approach to communication and interaction to support all pupils but particularly those who are eligible, through regular CPD and incremental coaching.</p> <p>Embed Speech Link assessments as EYFS screening to ensure early identification of need and precision of support needed.</p>	<p>The CST recommends using EEFs tiered methodology which is why we have looked at whole school approaches, targeted approaches and wider strategies.</p> <p>DFE research shows that Early Years providers have found that more children are needing speech and language support than before the pandemic.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-recovery-in-early-years-providers-summer-2022/education-recovery-in-early-years-providers-summer-2022</p> <p>EEF Communication and Language Report: Communication and language approaches: 7 months increased progress in learning.</p> <p>“There is evidence of language gaps for disadvantaged pupils at the beginning of school, so targeted communication support may be a promising approach to narrow these inequalities.”</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/early-years-toolkit/communication-and-language-approaches</p> <p>“The number of five and six year olds who need speech and language support at school has risen by 10% in England over the past year.” “There is also a huge backlog of children waiting for specialist help. Currently, 65,500 under the age of 18 are on the NHS waiting list to see a speech and language therapist, with an estimated 4,000 waiting for more than a year.” BBC 2022.</p> <p>Speech Link research demonstrates impact of early identification of speech needs.</p> <p>https://speechandlanguage.info/resources/perch/pdf/online-impact-brochure-sept-2023.pdf</p>	1
<p>Continue to embed whole Trust development of early reading with increased rigour and data analysis of the lowest 20% are regular intervals and targeted CPD for leaders of reading and teachers of reading. Investment in Trust offer external systematic Phonics provider to provide robust data analysis, development days, coaching, precision teaching and 1:1s.</p>	<p><i>High quality teaching for all remains the single biggest priority. We know from the best available evidence that the most powerful tool we have to combat educational inequality is to support great teaching in every classroom (Prof Becky Francis, CEO, EEF)</i></p> <p>DFE Guidance sets out that High quality teaching of English and Maths are the cornerstones of a broad, academic, knowledge-rich curriculum.</p> <p>Data outcomes show that nationally as well as within our Trust, attainment gaps have widened since pre pandemic.</p> <p>EEF guidance and reports ‘<i>further research confirms young pupils’ achievement in reading and maths remains significantly lower than before the pandemic, and the gap between children from low and high income households remains wide</i>’.</p>	1
<p>Establish a whole school trust approach to the teaching of writing through investment in a central English role and writing</p>	<p>Having a consistent approach to writing will directly improve the quality of provision and thus focus on Quality First Teaching. As evidenced above the EEF clearly states that improving the quality of teaching in every classroom is essential for all pupils but more for those eligible for Pupil Premium.</p>	2

programme, including KS1 'Sentence Builders'.		
Development of a school trust wide approach to pedagogy to support all pupils but particularly those eligible through regular and iterative CPD and an incremental coaching offer. Champion teachers support development of maths curriculum and pedagogy.	<p>EEF Metacognition and self-regulation guidance shows that <i>'Pupils who are metacognitive demonstrate more independence and resilience throughout the learning process. The explicit teaching of metacognition can be particularly helpful for learners that come from socio-disadvantaged backgrounds'</i></p> <p><i>Explicitly teaching of metacognitive and self-regulatory strategies could encourage disadvantaged pupils to practice and use these skills, managing their own learning better.</i></p> <p><i>Reports indicates that this can add 7 months of progress.</i></p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/metacognition-and-self-regulation</p> <p><i>Explicitly thinking about how teaching can be made genuinely inclusive to benefit all children, while relentlessly identifying, understanding and overcoming barriers to learning outside are two foundations of what has been termed an 'equity-based approach' to education. (Major and Briant 2023)</i></p> <p><i>Improving the quality of teaching in every classroom through ongoing high quality CPD and can narrow the disadvantage gap.</i></p> <p>EEF Effective Professional Development</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/effective-professional-development</p>	1,2,3

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

Budgeted cost: £ 72,076

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addresses
Embed precision teaching and targeted coaching support in the teaching of early reading and maths through reading leader CPD/Development Days and incremental coaching with an early reading and fluency in Maths focus. These are reiterative and build upon the school's starting points. Ensure that all teachers and	<p>EEF guidance reports on effective professional development, with a focus on the mechanisms, builds on prior knowledge and takes onto account of the context of school and its need.</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1usb.cloudfront.net/production/eef-guidance-reports/effective-professional-development/EEF-Effective-PD-Recommendations-Poster.pdf?v=1716290165</p> <p>Work as a National English Hub and leading iterative and developmental CPD.</p>	1 & 3

support staff have the relevant professional development to ensure effective CPD		
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ 288,362

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Enact a culture of belonging and support, alongside robust data analysis and evaluation cycles to improve attendance for eligible pupils across all schools, through policy and practice development.	<p>DFE PPG guidance: “Absence rates in schools have been 50% higher since the pandemic, with persistent absence doubling to 22.3% in 2022/23. Disadvantaged pupils have higher absence rates than their peers, with pupils eligible for free school meals missing an average of 4 weeks of school in 2022/23/ and looked after children missing nearly 6 weeks in 2021/22.”</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium</p> <p>EEF shows: “Pupils from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds were nearly twice as likely to be persistently absent than their classmates. With clear links between poor attendance and poor attainment and behaviour, tackling persistent absence is an important part of improving outcomes for all pupils.”</p> <p>“The interventions that show promise take a holistic approach in understanding pupils and their specific need.”</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/leadership-and-planning/supporting-attendance</p> <p>Research demonstrating the importance of building holistic culture of belonging and feeling of safety for all in raising attendance.</p> <p>https://www.evaluation.impactedgroup.uk/research-and-resources/understanding-attendance</p> <p>Research shows schools is the aspect of life children are most unhappy about and feeling listened to is a key barrier to this.</p> <p>https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/good-childhood-report-2023</p> <p>Trust research, validate the above research.</p> <p>Trust research and evaluations show that there is a need to have standard data analysis tools to monitor patterns of attendance and evaluative the approaches, to enable all</p>	3

	<p>schools to have the forensic leadership of attendance, that is needed.</p>	
A) Supporting cultural capital through finding places for eligible pupils on residential. B) Enact a Trust Positive Behaviour Policy with clarity and support for creating whole school relational approach, using the 4 stages of: Protect, Relate, Regulate and Repair. This focuses on prevention and proactive development of creating cultures of safety and belonging for all pupils.	<p>EEF shows impact of 'poor behaviour': "it's a major cause of stress for teachers and can have a lasting impact on the outcomes of the pupils in the class. There's a clear need for school to have consistent and clear behaviour policies that promote positive behaviour in lessons."</p> <p>EEG Guidance on Behaviour shows that 80% of the approach should be proactive, which aligns with the Trust development which is centred on building strong relationships and knowing pupils holistically.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/behaviour?utm_source=/education-evidence/guidance-reports/behaviour&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&search_term=behaviour</p> <p>The Timpson Review (2019) on suspensions found "A child who is distressed, angry, confused, lacking confidence and trust in others is a child that needs help. I have seen, on so many occasions, that without it, their behaviour and response to poorly understood interventions will only get worse," he said, adding that it is "important for schools to understand this context"- this reflects the importance of a TIS approach.</p> <p>National data shows that Suspensions increased 7% from Autumn 2022 to Spring 2023. This increase is being seen at the Trust with eligible pupils more than twice as likely to receive a suspension.</p> <p>Ongoing tools and CPD, including TIS approaches, development to support all schools in Continued development of further strategies, such as Team Teach to provide expertise and leadership in de escalation and support.</p>	4 & 5

Total budgeted cost: £684,780

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

- Trust Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils 2024-25 will be evaluated and published in autumn 2025.
- Trust Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils 2022-23 was evaluated and published on the Trust website.

Pupil premium strategy outcomes: (Ellacombe Academy)

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the **2024-2025** academic year. *Evaluation for this school

Intended Outcome	Impact
1.Gaps in outcomes for eligible pupils in EYFS and KS1 are closed. Speech needs are identified early in EYFS and supported so that more children are reading for the KS1 curriculum. The bottom 20% are targeted in a timely way to ensure that all pupils are reading by age 6.	<p>An experienced qualified teacher in Little Stars Nursery has enabled more children to be Reception-ready than previous years; all children who attended Little Stars Nursery went on to get GLD by the end of Reception in July 2025.</p> <p>The reading leader has ensured that the teaching of reading is consistently strong and ongoing monitoring and daily coaching ensures that rapid interventions are put in place to close gaps swiftly close; this is working alongside termly RWI Development Days to ensure that all children, and especially the bottom 20%, make rapid progress from their starting point. There are additional daily 1:1 interventions daily for children identified in the bottom 20% to close their bespoke gaps in knowledge and help them to make accelerated progress; there was no PP gap between PP and all this year.</p> <p>2024/25 outcomes:</p> <p>GLD (all) = 69% (PP) = 69%</p> <p>Y1 PSC (all) = 81% (PP) = 81%.</p> <p>End of KS1 PSC all and PP 100%</p> <p>Yr 2 outcomes: RWM at EXS (all) = 76%, 72%, 76% (PP) = 80%, 73%, 80%</p>
2.Gaps in Writing for eligible pupils across the Trust*, are closed at both expected and greater depth.	<p>At Ellacombe, we are beginning to close the gap for eligible pupils achieving the standard in writing and impact has been seen this year from our new KS1 writing approach. The professional development for staff has focused on pedagogy, specifically modelling and scaffolding, as well as supporting teachers in 'deepening the moment' to enhance children's writing. There has been a focus on audience and purpose in KS2 and encouraging teachers to provide writing opportunities from the "70 B4 Yr 7" experiences the children have undertaken. The new spelling and handwriting approaches are showing impact in EYFS and KS1.</p> <p>2024/25 outcomes:</p> <p>Key Stage Two outcomes were above nationals:</p>

	89% of all pupils achieved the expected standard and 77% of PP eligible pupils (72% and 59% nationally). It is important to factor in that this was a high SEND cohort with 13 children identified as both PP and SEND.																																																				
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<p>4. The gap in Attendance for eligible pupils to close at both attendance and persistent absentees.</p>	<p>The overall attendance for the school for 2024-2025 was 94.4% which was an increase of 0.8% and highest overall figure post-Covid. There remains a stubborn gap between those eligible for PP funding and those not:</p> <p>Overall PP attendance: 93.2% Overall non-PP attendance: 95.3% PA PP attendance: 18.1% PA non-PP attendance: 9.7%</p> <p>As a trust: Trust PA was 8.4%; reduced 3.4% since July '24. NA is down 1.8% Trust reduction from July is almost DOUBLE NAT</p> <p>All Vulnerable PA have reduced since July '24 and ALL are below NA.</p> <p>The impact of the Trust wide attendance network group has enabled those leading on attendance at Ellacombe to become increasingly confident in their roles and develop a wider range of strategies and ideas to support families where needed. This has included the incorporation of EBSA strategies with targeted families and signposting to wider services to support with carer responsibilities and parental mental health.</p>
<p>5. Reduce number of eligible pupils reaching suspension levels through:</p> <p>A) Supporting pupils' wider cultural capital development.</p> <p>B) whole Trust Behaviour approach, which is trauma informed, and provides practical advice and strategies to schools to embed a relational approach.</p>	<p>95% of staff at Ellacombe have undertaken the Team Teach training which is the practical application of the Trust behaviour approach; this has been alongside a number of whole school CPD sessions on TIA and the new behaviour approach. This is now consistently in place across the school. There remains a relatively high level of suspensions across the school – mainly due to physical assaults on staff or other children – however it is the school's belief that this would be considerably higher without the above approach in place and is a reflection of the increased level of need coming into the school. The school continues to work very closely with the Local Authority in discussions for pupils who are classed as 'Risk of Exclusion' to utilise different strategies (including some AP options) for children who fall into this category.</p> <p>The schools undertook 3 different residential activities last year with all children from years 4-6 being offered this opportunity; the school utilises PP funding (and additional grant funding) to ensure no pupil is excluded from these due to financial reasons. As a result of this 90% of children across these year groups attended at least one residential last year supporting their social, emotional, physical and independence development.</p> <p>Alongside this, all children across the school participated in a theatre production in a theatre and KS2 children attended a professional theatre school in a local theatre. Pupil conferencing has concluded that this opportunity has clearly positively impacted on the children's own confidence as well as their understanding of the 'social rules' of theatre participation and viewing.</p>

Further information

This Trust Director for Vulnerable Pupils and Inclusion (DPVI) holds overall responsibility for the development, enactment and monitoring and evaluation of this strategy.

This Trust Pupil Premium Strategy created by identifying the challenges faced by the disadvantaged pupils in the Trust. This includes using achievement data, attendance data and behaviour and attitudes information. This was developed alongside Headteachers across the Trust and builds upon a wide evidence base.

This strategy has been designed alongside Headteachers, reflecting upon what is having impact on supporting eligible pupils. The DVPI, as part of The Education Team, will support Headteachers in evaluating the effectiveness of this Strategy in their schools, as well as evaluating at a Trust level.