

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2025 to 2026 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	St George's Academy
Number of pupils in school	2454 at 30/09/25
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	(912/ 2,454) 37%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3year plans are recommended)	2023 - 2026
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2026
Statement authorised by	C Crawshaw, Senior Vice Principal
Pupil premium lead	R Vickers
Governor / Trustee lead	G Arnold / N Horner

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£870,000
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	0
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	£870,000

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our aim is to ensure that all pupils, regardless of background, 'aim high' and make good progress across all curriculum areas.

Our pupil premium strategy is focused on supporting disadvantaged students to overcome barriers to learning that will affect their ability to make good progress, as a result of various challenges the students may face in their lives. We aim to provide targeted strategies to support vulnerable students to access all areas of the curriculum and make the best possible progress.

Our pupil premium strategy is built around three main priorities to ensure that all disadvantaged students receive the level of targeted support they require:

- Development of 'Quality First Teaching' across the Academy to ensure students are engaged and motivated and that their specific needs are being met – this is integral in ensuring that all students, disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged receive high quality teaching, ensuring that all students' needs are met. This will allow specific barriers to learning for disadvantaged students to be broken down and ensure that the correct amount of support is provided to disadvantaged students in the areas where they most require it.
- Targeted Academic support to ensure that students receive appropriate and timely interventions to support with their specific barriers to learning and learning needs. This will help to both raise aspirations and attainment of underperforming students. This will include a range of targeted interventions to support students with basic literacy and numeracy skills, therefore allowing them to access the full curriculum.
- Wider strategies including pastoral support and development of student aspirations will support students to become more effective independent learners and foster a desire to succeed.

Overall, our pupil premium strategy aims to be proactive and provide early interventions to support the continued progress of our disadvantaged students to ensure that the gap in attainment is closed. The impact of our interventions will be measured by robust assessment to ensure strategies are effective and meet our objectives.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Attainment of disadvantaged students, especially in English is generally lower than non-disadvantaged students. Students struggle with literacy-based tasks and reading ability, on average, is below that of non-disadvantaged peers. Attainment in the Ebacc is also significantly lower for disadvantaged students.</p> <p>Average point score figures for 2025 outcomes show disadvantaged students achieved on average 0.68 grades lower than their non-disadvantaged peers. In English Language, the average point score for disadvantaged is 0.77 lower than non-disadvantaged. This outcome is continued into current KS4 groups, where predicted outcomes are an average of 0.23 & 0.55 grades lower for Year 11 and Year 10 respectively, compared to non-disadvantaged.</p> <p>Data for the Ebacc shows disadvantaged students in 2025 outcomes on average achieving 2.82 grades lower than non-disadvantaged with predictions between 1.97 (Year 10) and 1.37 (Year 11) grades lower than non-disadvantaged.</p>
2	<p>Reading age of disadvantaged students is lower than that of their non-disadvantaged peers, however, reading age tests for Y8 students in the last academic year showed a reduction in this gap. This is evident from teacher observations and reading age testing. This impacts on reading comprehension and overall attainment in all subjects as disadvantaged students find it harder to access course material and subject specific language.</p>
3	<p>Observations from teachers and work scrutiny show that disadvantaged students are less able to take ownership of their learning and take less pride in their work. Levels of homework completion are lower than their non-disadvantaged peers. Evidence from work scrutiny and assessments also show disadvantaged students are less resilient when faced with challenges in their work and have a reduced skill set for evaluating and improving answers.</p>
4	<p>Attendance figures for the school indicate a disparity between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. Among students eligible for free school meals during the academic year 2024-2025 attendance was 5.4% lower than non-disadvantaged students. The disparity in absence rates is further strengthened by persistent absence of 24.9% of disadvantaged students. Although very slight progress has been made in reducing this lower attendance, further work is required. Absence from school has a huge negative impact on progress as evidence in assessment data of the students.</p>
5	<p>Continued impact of the partial school closures due to lockdown. Evidence from exam data and student progress shows there continues to be a large impact on the attainment of disadvantaged students due to time missed during lockdown and lack of engagement during this time. Evidence from behaviour events and teacher observations shows social skills also continue to be affected negatively by the impact of the partial school closures. 56% (19 students) of students who access alternative provision due to persistent behaviour challenges in school are disadvantaged. Of these, 50% of external</p>

	<p>AP placements are taken by disadvantaged students and 64% of students in the Academy's onsite AP are disadvantaged</p> <p>This has further widened the gap in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.</p>
6	<p>Evidence from students requiring a greater degree of pastoral support/other support mechanisms, show that the coronavirus pandemic and partial school closure have had a greater impact upon the wellbeing of disadvantaged students resulting in higher levels of students suffering from mental health related issues. Stress and anxiety levels have increased along with increased issues with low self-esteem. There are also greater numbers of disadvantaged students seeking financial support for basic school equipment and uniform and accessing breakfast and lunchtime club provision.</p>

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
Reduced gap in the attainment of our disadvantaged students	<p>Student progress for disadvantaged students is improved and the gap between progress of non-disadvantaged students and disadvantaged students is reduced –measured by progress 8 scores for each student group.</p> <p>There is higher attainment from disadvantaged students in EBacc subjects.</p>
Reading age and comprehension of disadvantaged students is improved across KS3 & KS4	<p>Reading age testing demonstrates an improvement in overall reading age within disadvantaged students. This is further evidenced by improvements in reading ability and access to subject specific language across all subjects by teaching staff and in assessments.</p>
Greater level of independence and ownership of learning of disadvantaged students	<p>Levels of engagement of disadvantaged students in lessons is high. Students take pride in their work and can work independently on tasks. Evidenced by teacher feedback, lessons observations and work scrutiny.</p>
Improved student wellbeing for all, including disadvantaged students.	<p>High levels of wellbeing are evident throughout all year groups. This will be evidenced by observations by teachers, through the pastoral support structure and from student and parent voice. Further evidence will be provided by high levels of engagement in extra-curricular activities.</p>
Improved attendance for all students, including disadvantaged students.	<p>Improved attendance figures year on year to include:</p> <p>Levels of attendance across the Academy to meet national expectations of 93%</p> <p>Reduced gap in attendance between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged. Target of less than 5% gap in attendance.</p>

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: £100,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Development of Quality First Teaching strategy throughout the Academy via recruitment of highly skilled and enthusiastic new staff, sharing good practise and robust monitoring.	<p>High quality teaching is crucial in student achievement, especially so in narrowing the attainment gap for disadvantaged students. Evidence from The Sutton Trust indicates that students from disadvantaged backgrounds can gain up to 1.5 years of learning with a very effective teacher</p> <p>EEF metacognitions +7 months EEF individualised instruction +4 months.</p> <p>Supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils (publishing.service.gov.uk) Microsoft Word - Teachers Impact report final.docx (suttontrust.com) Supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils: articulating success and good practice (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p>	1, 2, 3, 4
Data collection at regular points throughout the term to raise awareness of specific needs of all disadvantaged students to be used in planning by teachers.	<p>Collecting data from individual students helps to identify specific barriers to learning which can then be addressed, along with identifying learning styles for individuals to best support student progress in lessons. Collected data can help to inform teacher planning to provide high quality lessons that meet the needs of their students as individuals.</p> <p>EEF within class attainment grouping + 2 months EEF individualised instruction +4 months.</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/documents/news/Diagnostic_Assessment_Tool.pdf</p>	1, 3, 5
Continuing whole Academy development of classroom practise and high-quality feedback to support students to develop metacognition	<p>Encouraging student metacognitive skills, whereby they think about their own learning can progress learning rapidly and support them to become more independent learners</p> <p>EEF metacognitions +7 months</p>	1, 3, 5

<p>skills and become more independent, resilient learners</p>	<p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/metacognition</p> <p>High quality feedback is a powerful tool in supporting student progress. It helps address misconceptions and can build learning, thus helping students to become more independent learners.</p> <p>EEF feedback +6 months</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/feedback-supporting-the-attainment-of-disadvantaged-pupils-articulating-success-and-good-practice-publishing.service.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Continued development of subject pedagogy via CPD to ensure that all teaching staff provide high quality lessons with a range of strategies to support the learning of all students.</p>	<p>High quality teaching has a huge impact on closing the gap in attainment for disadvantaged students. A well planned and developed CPD system ensures that teachers are able to develop and implement strategies to ensure lessons are well planned and include the most appropriate teaching strategies for ensuring good progress is made.</p> <p>EEF individualised instruction +4 months EEF collaborative learning approaches +5 months EEF metacognition and self-regulation +7 months</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/effective-professional-development</p>	<p>1, 3, 5</p>

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

Budgeted cost: £600,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>HLTA's for English Maths, Science and Humanities appointed to work with underachieving students in small groups/support in class to help raise attainment</p>	<p>Interventions by teaching assistants/intervention teachers allows intensive support and focus to be provided to underperforming students. The impact of such focused support provides much greater impact and an individual level than in class support.</p>	<p>1, 2, 5</p>

	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions	
Whole school Learning mentors 1:1/small group intervention to improve basic skills to allow better access to curriculum/ improve self-esteem, raise aspirations, improve overall engagement.	<p>Small group intervention allows staff to focus interventions with a small number of students. This can allow intensive work can be carried out with underperforming students to help maximise progress.</p> <p>There is evidence to show that small group intervention is effective to narrow the gap for disadvantaged students.</p> <p>EEF Behaviour interventions +4 months EEF Collaborative learning approaches +5 months EEF individualised instruction +4 months EEF metacognitions and self-regulation +7 months</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition</p>	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
Reading intervention	<p>Students with below average reading ages struggle to access the full curriculum and therefore progress is limited. Reading interventions to identify and improve reading ability for these students can allow them to access lessons more effectively and develop more independence.</p> <p>EEF phonics +5 months EEF Reading comprehension strategies +6 months</p> <p>Phonics EEF Reading comprehension strategies EEF</p> <p>Intensive one to one or small group reading intervention allows specific barriers to be identified and focused, intensive work to be carried out to build skills.</p> <p>EEF one to one tuition +5 months EEF small group tuition +4 months</p> <p>Small group tuition EEF One to one tuition EEF</p>	1,2,4
Academic mentoring by SLT/pastoral leaders/Learning mentors for the most underperforming students to provide	Evidence shows that some disadvantaged students show low engagement in school and have low expectations. Targeted mentoring can help to improve student engagement and expectations by providing structured support.	1, 3, 5

targeted support to improve attainment	EEF individualised instruction +4 months EEF parental engagement +4 months EEF mentoring +2 months https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/mentoring	
Key skills groups in all years support the least able to develop improved basic skills allowing better access to the curriculum as a whole.	<p>Basic literacy and numeracy is key to access all areas of the curriculum. Students with weaker literacy levels are less able to access subject specific terminology and make good progress. Weaker numeracy means students are unable to apply basic mathematical skills across the curriculum.</p> <p>Specific interventions to support develop basic skills allow students to make greater progress in these areas.</p> EEF collaborative learning approaches +5 months EEF individualised instruction +4 months EEF reducing class size +2 months	1, 2
Outreach work with further education providers and employers to develop aspiration in students and help foster greater engagement.	<p>Lack of aspiration in students due to socioeconomic factors has an impact on attainment and progress. Helping students to see different pathways available after their time at school helps build aspiration and therefore encourage greater engagement.</p> <p>Current evidence for aspirational interventions in education is limited and the wider evidence base suggests aspirational interventions linked to academic components have the most benefit.</p> <p>"Valuing Enrichment: Transforming Education through Empowerment and Opportunity" NCFE</p>	1,3,4
Summer school sessions aimed to support the transition of Y6 students into secondary school.	<p>Evidence shows that pupils who have a transitional summer school make greater progress on average than those who do not. Including a mix of academic and non-academic activities helps develop engagement and participation among students.</p> EEF Summer schools +3 months	3, 4, 5, 6

Northgate house	<p>On-site individualised education for selected students who are struggling to access mainstream education. Students are able to access core subjects and a more vocational suite of other subjects to maximise engagement and attainment.</p> <p>EEF collaborative learning approaches +5 months</p> <p>EEF individualised instruction +4 months</p> <p>EEF reducing class size +2 months</p> <p>EEF Behaviour interventions +4 months</p>	4,5,6
Enhanced provision	<p>On site provision to bridge reintegration of students who have previously been persistently absent or who have emotional barriers which can prevent them accessing the classroom. Enhanced provision provides a small group setting with consistent staffing, to prevent absence.</p>	4,5,6
Alternative provision	<p>Funding of alternative provision for students who struggle to access mainstream education. Students access personalised provision to maximise attainment, engagement and attainment.</p> <p>EEF collaborative learning approaches +5 months</p> <p>EEF individualised instruction +4 months</p> <p>EEF reducing class size +2 months</p> <p>EEF Behaviour interventions +4 months</p>	4,5,6

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

Budgeted cost: £170,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Breakfast club run by Learning mentors to support students in being prepared for the school day and develop social interaction skills	<p>Provision of a breakfast club for disadvantaged students can boost attendance, improve attainment and improve classroom learning environments. Children who come to school hungry are less able to concentrate and as such behaviour and attainment are affected.</p> <p>EEF Social and emotional learning +4 months</p>	1, 4, 5, 6

	Breakfast clubs work their magic in disadvantaged English schools - Institute For Fiscal Studies - IFS	
Lunchtime and afterschool support and homework clubs run by Learning Mentors to support students in developing independence and ownership of their work.	<p>Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing learning in the classroom. Evidence from surveys in England suggests that disadvantaged students often struggle to complete homework due to a lack of quiet learning space or access to reliable technology and internet, thus widening the gap in attainment. The provision of a supportive homework club space can remove this barrier and allow students time to develop a greater independence and ownership with their learning.</p> <p>EEF Social and Emotional learning +4 months EEF Mentoring +2 months EEF extending school time +3 months EEF Homework +5 months</p> <p>Homework EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p>	1, 3, 5
<p>Deployment of government laptop scheme resources to any disadvantaged students unable to use ICT to support learning whilst at home.</p> <p>Further supported by providing reconditioned school desktop PCs where needed.</p>	<p>Lack of access to technology is the main barrier for disadvantaged students to access work at home. Research by The Sutton Trust identified a 35% divide in access between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. Ensuring all students have access to all online learning is essential to ensure barriers are not created as a result of low income and lack of resources in times where home learning is needed.</p> <p>EEF homework +5 months</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/documents/guidance-for-teachers/covid-19/Exemplifying_findings_from_EEF%E2%80%99s_rapid_evidence_assessment_on_remote_learning.pdf</p>	1, 3, 5
Peer reading mentoring for students with the lowest reading ages to help encourage a love of reading, improve basic literacy and develop self-esteem in students	<p>Peer mentoring is an effective tool in raising attainment in students and building confidence in both parties. Peer mentoring is most effective when used to consolidate learning and practise skills.</p> <p>EEF Peer tutoring +5 months EEF Reading comprehension strategies +6 months</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/peer-tutoring</p>	2, 5, 6

<p>Enrichment activities to develop problem solving skills, develop resilience and improve self-esteem.</p>	<p>Enrichments activities may provide disadvantaged student with opportunities which they may otherwise not experience. Activities involved may help to challenge them physically and emotionally and build transferable non-cognitive skills such as resilience and independence.</p> <p>EEF Collaborative learning experiences +5 months</p> <p>EEF social and emotional learning +4 months</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/outdoor-adventure-learning</p>	<p>3, 4, 6</p>
<p>Focused support by attendance officer, SPM and Learning mentors to ensure that student attendance is high and students are in school.</p>	<p>Research shows that poor attendance is directly linked to poor attainment by students. This is especially true for disadvantaged students, where attendance rates are overall lower than non-disadvantaged students, thus widen the gap in attainment.</p> <p>EEF Parental engagement +4 months</p> <p>Attendance-REA-protocol-21092021.pdf (d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net)</p>	<p>1, 4, 5</p>
<p>High quality on site emotional support and funding for counselling services to support students who experience mental health issues.</p>	<p>Evidence is clear that a student's health and wellbeing has direct impact on their cognition and ability to learn. It is estimated that 1 in 6 children aged 5-16 years have a probable mental health disorder which may impact upon their ability to learn.</p> <p>EEF social and emotional learning +4 months</p> <p>Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p>	<p>1, 5, 6</p>

Total budgeted cost: £ £870,000