



# **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Knaresborough**

## **Pupil Premium Policy**

**“With Christ at the centre, we show  
Unity, Respect, Joy, Love and Courage.”**

**St Mary's School Mission Statement**

Policy review date- Autumn 2023

Person Responsible- Helen Tomlinson

Ratified by Academy Council- Autumn 2023

Review date- Autumn 2024

## Overview

St Mary's is a Primary Academy, part of the wider Bishop Wheeler Trust. There are strong links with the church and parish which enrich pupils' religious, spiritual, moral and social education. These links contribute a valuable dimension to its Christian ethos. The school is currently working in partnership with our teaching school.

The school community actively strives and encourages all its members to live the Gospel values which are central to the mission of the school. It is evident in the relationships between members of the school community and is extended to include any visitors who are always warmly welcomed. Inclusion is at the heart of St Mary's and is underpinned by the gospel values of respect, compassion and a Christian duty to meet the needs of others. Inclusion at St Mary's is not merely an 'add on'; it is part of the fabric of the school and is demonstrated daily in the words and actions of adults and children.

St Mary's is a one form entry primary school with seven classes. The standard admission number is 30. The

NOR is 180. All learners are taught in single age classes. The majority of pupils are white British, 21 pupils are EAL, 4 pupils have an EHCP and 3 pupils are PLAC. FSM are well below the national average. There are 31 (17%) Disadvantaged pupils at St Mary's. We converted to academy status as a Catholic Multi Academy

Trust in June 2015.

The quality of teaching and learning at St Mary's is high, with the teaching of pupil premium pupils being no exception, with observations over 2022-2023 the overall rating of the quality of teaching and learning as good. We have high aspirations for all our children and we believe no child should be left behind. We are determined to ensure all our children are given every opportunity to realise their maximum potential, ensuring the highest expectations for all. At St Mary's Pupil Premium funding represents a proportion of our school budget and we are committed to ensuring it is spent to maximum effect.

## Strategy for spending Pupil Premium

Our key objective in using the pupil premium grant is to diminish the differences between pupil groups. We aim for consistently high levels of Pupil Premium attainment, aiming for above national rates of attainment. Through high quality teaching and targeted interventions we are working to eliminate barriers to learning and progress.

### Potential barriers to learning:

- Social, cultural or economic background
- Human rights have not been met i.e. eating breakfast/having clean clothes
- Previously undetected or unaddressed learning disabilities
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns including low self-esteem
- One of the four main types of child abuse existing in the home environment

Many children start our school with low attainment on entry, mainly in the specific areas and our aim is to ensure that they make accelerated progress in order to reach age-related expectations and beyond as they progress through school in the prime and specific areas of learning.

Our plan is to provide high quality teaching and bespoke interventions which predominantly focus on improving feedback, increasing parental engagement and raising academic levels. We set up a fluid system of interventions across school, evaluating impact from entry to exit to analyse effectiveness. We also focus interventions led by trained members of staff.

### Identification of Pupils:

We will ensure that-

- All teaching staff and support staff are involved in the analysis of data and identification of pupils
- All staff are aware of who disadvantaged children are across school
- All disadvantaged children benefit from the funding, not just those who are underperforming
- We will use our assessment system and data to compare disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged performance from Reception to Year 6 including analysis of children working below, at and exceeding expected levels in line with new assessment procedures.

### Improving day to day teaching

We will continue to ensure that:

- All children across school receive at least good teaching, with an increasing percentage outstanding by using coaching to share the best features of teaching from within school and between schools.
- Consistent implementation of non-negotiables e.g. all following whole school practices such as guided reading, times tables etc.
- Prioritise language development and phonics in EYFS and KS1
- Prioritise reading in KS2
- Whole school ethos of challenging the high prior-attaining pupils.

### Increasing learning time

We will maximise the time children have to close the gap by:

- Providing earlier intervention across school
- Ensure all children have access to homework resources online and otherwise.

### Our Aim

The targeted and strategic use of pupil premium will support us in achieving our aim of helping everyone achieve to their full potential.

We do this by:

Firstly: assuring the best possible delivery of learning experiences in the classroom.

Secondly: utilising a range of group and individual interventions designed to support those with identified needs.

Thirdly: offering a rich and varied menu of activities designed to engage and motivate pupils, raising their aspirations and creating a positive view of learning.

### Pupil Premium Principles

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all the pupils.

- We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, this includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed.
- Pupil premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis, which will identify priority groups or individuals.
- We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.

We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged. Any group will be made up of FSM children and non-FSM children, where their needs are similar, or where meeting their needs helps to create a learning environment more conducive to success for all.

### Provision

Some pupils may complete additional group work with the class teacher (high quality teaching), an experienced teaching assistant or higher-level teaching assistant focussed on overcoming gaps in learning. Additional teaching and learning opportunities are provided through trained TA's. Acquiring effective materials aimed at raising standards particularly in reading, writing and mathematics. Specific training provided for TAs to deliver interventions to vulnerable pupils e.g. Read, Write Inc., B Squared, Narrative Therapy and Emotional Literacy. All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age-related expectations. Initially this may be through targeted literacy and numeracy support or initiatives to promote children's engagement in learning.

### Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the acting headteacher and pupil premium champion to produce regular reports for the Academy Council on:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap for children who are entitled to the Pupil Premium
- An outline of the provision in place at the school
- An evaluation of the effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision.

The Academy Council of the school will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'diminishing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils.

The Pupil Premium Strategy Report outlines how we allocate the Pupil Premium and catch-up funding to its maximum benefit for the disadvantaged pupils in school and the desired outcomes. The impact of the pupil premium spend is reported to parents and the Academy Council following each academic year. This information can also be found on the school website.