

PUPIL PREMIUM STRATEGY

Our Values

At Uplands we pride ourselves on having high aspiration and ambition for all pupils, regardless of their background. We operate a no excuse culture, setting children up to have the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed. In addition to our ethos of Respect for All, our mission is to ensure that every pupil should be supported to achieve success.

We have high expectations for all of our pupils, and believe it is not where you come from but your passion and thirst for knowledge and dedication to learning that makes the difference between success and failure. Together with good teaching and a lot of love and care, every child can have the aspiration to achieve their ambition.

Background to Pupil Premium funding

Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children.

This is based on research showing that children from low income families perform less well at school than their non-deprived peers. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.

It must also be remembered that there can be children who, whilst being eligible for FSM and Pupil Premium, are not low attaining but may not be maximising their full potential. We must therefore never confuse eligibility for the Pupil Premium with low ability. We must focus on supporting all disadvantaged children to achieve the highest levels

Funding is allocated within the school budget by financial year. This budget enables the school to plan its intervention and support programme. Expenditure is therefore planned and implemented by need. (See spending strategy on our website for each academic year)

Statement from Sutton Trust

The challenge to establish a clear link between educational expenditure and pupils' learning is harder than one would imagine. It may seem obvious that more money offers the possibilities for a better or higher quality educational experience, but the evidence suggests that it is not simply a question of spending more to get better results. (Sutton Trust 2012)

From this statement we looked at evidence and based our rationale on prioritising our spend on areas of need using strategies that were shown to work.

Context

Our School leaders and governing board ensure that Pupil Premium funding is not simply absorbed into the mainstream budget, but instead is carefully targeted at the designated children. Some initiatives are adopted on a whole school basis and are not restricted to FSM registered pupils only. However, the implementation of some programmes would not have been possible without the Pupil Premium. The majority of school strategies are targeted towards improvement in the attainment and progress of pupils

Building belief in our pupil premium children comes from an understanding of their barriers to learning. At the beginning of each term class teachers will undertake a pupil premium 'chat' to understand the needs and barriers to their learning. Barriers to learning will then be discussed within year meetings and suitable interventions (including non-academic) will be put in place.

As an inclusive school, we strongly believe that no pupil should be disadvantaged as a result of background or circumstances. All staff ensure that resources and support are also provided for children who may not necessarily be eligible for free school meals or looked after, but who have been identified by the school as being at an educational disadvantage compared to their peers.

To encourage a belief in every child at Uplands a 'Respect for All' ethos is reinforced in every aspect of school life.