

## Pupil Premium

**Almost 18%** of pupils at St Marys Academy are eligible for pupil premium. This is an amount of money which is given to schools each year to provide support for children who receive free school meals since nationally, the evidence is that these children may need additional support while they are at school. We also receive money for service and looked after children.

*“It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium ..., is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.”*

**Source - DfE website**

The pupil premium money received in the financial year is approximately £70,000.

### How is the money spent?

Our strategy is to support any child, whether or not they receive free school meals in the belief that helping each individual when they need it helps the school community and provides support for everyone. The Pupil Premium helps us to support our children in two different ways: firstly by enabling additional adult support across the school and secondly by allowing us to help individual children who have identified needs.

#### *Additional Adult support*

The pupil premium has helped us by supplementing our staffing costs and allowing us to increase the support available to many of our classes. We believe early intervention is crucial and therefore additional teaching in Early Years to stimulate accelerated progress in language development. We use pupil premium funding and voluntary extra support from teachers in their own time to enable more children to have more individual support and access to adults who can offer encouragement and support both emotionally and with academic subjects.

In addition we have been able to direct additional Academy resources to securing a Child and Family worker to coordinate provision for families and liaise with outside providers. We have provided some specialist teaching to improve the breadth of our curriculum access: we have specialist teachers in ICT, Science and Music as well as dedicated sports coaches, these appointments have created opportunities for class teachers to have focussed time with pupils eligible for pupil premium and others.

#### *Projects*

We have established links with additional agencies to set up a range of projects including:

Learning Mentors, Child and Family counselling and a Bereavement support programme for children. This is called Rainbows and this is organised in partnership with the local Baptist Church who provide access to facilities to run this provision in a neutral environment. This programme supports six children over a period of two terms with follow up as required. We aim to provide this offer at least once a year.

#### *Meeting individual needs*

At St Mary's we carefully consider the needs of every child, at the time at which the needs are shown, and try to find creative solutions. Already this year pupil premium has enabled us to:

- ~ introduce a trained play therapist to help a child who had traumatic emotional issues;
- ~ set up and sustaining an ongoing parenting course to develop the home school partnership;
- ~ train a member of staff to develop skills for working with parents;
- ~ involve our sports coach in designing individual gym trails for some children;
- ~ pay staff to provide games-based after school clubs for targeted children to support with emotional and anger management as well as curriculum support.
- ~ invite children to join co-operative sessions of Lego therapy;
- ~ arrange for a child to have a high quality learning experience out of school;
- ~ create opportunities for 1-1 support with an adult to help with reading;
- ~ buy software and resources to meet needs identified by some of our older pupils;
- ~ extend the range of curriculum interventions we offer to individuals and groups of children.

We know how important excellent attendance is to help all children make progress and we have provided transport to improve attendance and also assist with working alongside families. We have developed effective links with and financial support from a housing association to secure access to continuous schooling and improved attendance.

We have worked with Pre-school providers to secure improved attendance through improved transport provision. We have allocated travel grants and transport to enable free access to clubs and holiday schemes.

We have appointed family support from outside agencies and specialists to work with families for targeted support.

We are fortunate to have gained the support of our local churches in providing access to additional resources to support families in need.

There is certainly no 'one size fits all' approach. Instead we tailor the resources we have to cater for individual children. For younger children, we make the decisions; for older children, decisions are made collaboratively with the children to ensure that the each child's voice is heard and that the children's priorities are the same as ours.

### **Narrowing the Gap**

For the majority of children, standards at St Mary's C of E Academy already compare well with standards nationally because we have a very skilled and dedicated workforce of teachers and support staff and increasingly our work in partnership with parents and families is having a positive impact.

Core principles of our use of pupil premium are therefore:

- ~ increasing motivation and participation by widening the curriculum on offer and employing specialist providers, teachers and support staff.

~ having sufficient staff that children's additional needs can be identified and personalised support put in place swiftly to maximise effectiveness

~ working closely with parents and families in supporting all of the children who need help rather than identifying only a few.

### **Summary**

We measure the impact of our work with these children by monitoring standards on a monthly basis. We track attendance and monitor attitude and self-esteem. We seek to maximise their engagement in the curriculum and the wider provision available to them. We also take into account the needs of our military family on the basis of spiritual, moral, social and cultural expectations. We encourage attendance at extended school activities and offer support as and when this seems appropriate. Our Child and Family worker is key to the development of relationships with key families. Teachers are aware of the need to focus additional resources towards the children who need support. The staff and members of our Governing body are fully aware of the need to manage resources effectively in order to secure the best possible outcomes for all our children and the pupil premium assists in enabling us to achieve this.