

# **PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY FOR THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL**



**NAMED PERSON: ANITA BAXTER**  
**ATTACHED COMMITTEE: CURRICULUM**

**Review Date: SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**Review Cycle: 1 Year**  
**Next Review Date: SEPTEMBER 2022**

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide background information about the pupil premium grant so that all members of the school community understand its purpose and which pupils are eligible
- Set out how the school will make decisions on pupil premium spending
- Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing the pupil premium in school

## 2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the [pupil premium conditions of grant guidance \(2021-22\)](#), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. It is also based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service premium](#).

In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on [what maintained schools must publish online](#).

## 3. Purpose of the Grant

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential.

## 4. Use of the Grant

Context:

- The Buckingham School has a significant proportion of pupil premium pupils, though this proportion is lower than the national average proportion of pupil premium pupils.
- There is significant variation as to the proportion of pupil premium pupils in each year group.
- Whilst many achieve successful outcomes, gap analysis shows that there are gaps in attendance, behaviour, progress and attainment for some disadvantaged children across all year groups.
- During lockdown, there is evidence that the significant strides the school has made in closing such gaps has partially been reversed, for example Level 2 outcomes
- A rising proportion of pupils join the school in Year 7 with a reading age below their chronological reading age. A lack of literacy skills is impacting on pupils' progress and attainment.
- A significant proportion of the school body, including disadvantaged pupils do not live in Buckingham itself or Maids Moreton (an adjoined village).
- **Improving outcomes for Pupil Premium pupils is a key priority of the school**

Arising barriers to success

- Limited aspiration on the part of the pupil or their wider family
- Lack of independent study skills
- Lack of support outside of school in the form of time, emotional support, guidance and practical support
- Lack of funds to assist in accessing extra-curricular activities, school trips and visits, materials and equipment
- Low numeracy and literacy skills
- Low self-esteem and a lack of self-belief
- Poor attendance

Decisions

Our use of the Pupil Premium is guided by the following principles:

- To ensure all students are appropriately supported
- To use evidence (such as Education Endowment Foundation research and best practice guidance from the Local Authority – “Closing the Gap”) to inform good practice
- To ensure that the level of challenge in lessons supports high expectations for all students;
- To create appropriate learning opportunities and monitor progress in learning carefully;
- To provide effective feedback to enable students to know their next steps in making progress;
- To guide students on future pathways.

## Use of the Grant continued

Some examples of how the school may use the grant include, but are not limited to:

- Providing extra one-to-one or small-group support
- Running catch-up sessions for Key Stage 3 students who join the school behind in numeracy and literacy
- Providing extra tuition where needed (for example, ahead of GCSEs)
- Funding educational trips and visits
- Student First Team

We will publish our strategy on the school's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the school website, in line the DfE's requirements on what maintained schools must publish online and using the templates on GOV.UK

## 5. Eligibility and Funding

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based upon the number of eligible pupils in years 7 – 11.

Eligible pupils fall into the categories explained below.

### 5.1 Ever 6 Free School Meals

Pupils recorded in the most recent October school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).

This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent October census.

It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches.

### 5.2 Looked After Children

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales for at least 1 day. Allocations will be provisionally based on the children looked-after data return in March of the previous year, and then confirmed in December of the current year based on the children looked-after data return in March of the current year.

### 5.3 Post-looked after children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

### 5.4 Ever 6 service children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census:

- With a parent serving in the regular armed forces

- Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance), including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census
- In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

### 6.1 Leaders: Headteacher, senior leadership team

The headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up to date, and ensuring that it is implemented across the school
- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to the governing board on an ongoing basis
- Publishing the school's pupil premium strategy on the school website each academic year, as required by the DfE
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment

### 6.2 Governors

The governing board is responsible for:

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Ensuring the school is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium
- Challenging the headteacher to use the pupil premium in the most effective way
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

### 6.3 Other School Staff

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium

- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff

#### **6.4 Virtual School Heads**

Virtual school heads are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority, and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying the eligible looked after children and informing the local authority
- Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked after children benefit without delay
- Working with each looked after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how pupil premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way
- Demonstrating how pupil premium funding is raising the achievement of looked after children

Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

#### **7. Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL



## PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

Review Cycle: 1 Year  
Review Date: September 2021  
Next Review: September 2022

Mr Matthew Watkins  
Chairman of Governing Body

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Watkins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Date: September 2021