

Pupil Premium Policy

September 2019

INCLUSION AND SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT:

We are committed to creating futures for all in a welcoming and supportive learning environment, in which all pupils feel valued and challenged to be resilient thinkers, active learners with transferable skills and have an appetite for world learning.

In the Synaptic Trust all pupils are valued, inspired and respected within our happy, welcoming family.

We set high expectations for all our pupils. Practitioners give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in their learning, by providing a relevant and challenging curriculum with an emphasis on personalised learning.

All children have unique experiences to share. Across the trust we celebrate this diversity by valuing the contribution of all pupils and providing a learning environment that encourages interdependence.

Our trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children and expects staff to share this commitment.

Aims

It is the aim of The Synaptic Trust to ensure that all children attending our schools are given the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

We aim to fulfil the entitlement of all children, whatever their needs, to support and enable them to have full access to the curriculum and to participate in the life of the school to the best of their abilities.

This document lays out the school's policy on the use of the pupil premium grant.

Principles

All members of staff and governors accept responsibility for 'socially disadvantaged' pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs. Our Assistant Heads for Inclusion have been appointed as our Pupil Premium 'Champions.'

As with every child in our care, a child who is considered to be 'socially disadvantaged' is valued, respected and entitled to develop to his/her full potential, irrespective of need.

Background

The Pupil Premium is allocated to pupils from low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for FSM (free school meals) in both mainstream and non-mainstream settings and pupils who have been 'Looked After' continuously for more than six months. The premium is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their potential.

A premium was also introduced for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces; this service premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these pupils.

The Government have used pupils entitled to Free School meals as an indicator for deprivation, and have deployed a fixed amount of money to schools per pupil, based on the number of pupils registered for Free School meals. At Woodside we will be using the indicator of those eligible for Free School meals as our target children to 'narrow the gap' regarding attainment.

The Government are not dictating how schools should spend this money, but are clear that schools will need to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment, and 'narrow the gap'. Schools will be accountable for narrowing the gap, and there is a planned reform to the school performance tables to include new measures that show the attainment of pupils who receive the pupil premium compare with their peers.

Provision

In order to meet the above requirements, the Governing Body of the Academy will ensure that provision is made which secures the teaching and learning opportunities that meet the needs of all pupils. Our main priority is to 'narrow the gap' so that the attainment of disadvantaged pupils is in line with that of their peers. This will mean that all pupil premium pupils will make expected progress and some will make accelerated progress.

As part of the additional provision made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, the Governors of the Academy will ensure that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed through termly pupil progress meetings.

In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, the Governors of the Academy recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.

The Governors also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. The Governors 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.

The range of provision

- Facilitating pupils' access to education
- Facilitating pupils access to the curriculum, including our enrichment programmes
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities

The Inclusion Leaders, in conjunction with the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, will maintain an on-going programme of support for socially disadvantaged pupils, which will be subject to the oversight of the Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the Inclusion Leaders to produce a termly report for the Governor's Staffing and Curriculum Committee on:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision that was made during the term since the last meeting.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

It will be the responsibility of the Inclusion Leaders to ensure and outline of the school's progress towards 'narrowing the gap' for socially disadvantaged pupils is given to the school's Governors on a termly basis.

The Governing Body will consider the information provided from the Staffing and Curriculum Committee in the light of the data relating to the progress of the school's socially disadvantaged pupils in conjunction with the revised schools' league tables.

The Governors of Woodside will ensure that there is an annual statement to the parents and carers (on the Academy's web site) on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils.

Success Criteria

The evaluation of this policy is based on how quickly the school can 'narrow the gap' between socially disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Targets will be identified and evaluated annually and included in the Improvement Plan.

The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for socially disadvantaged children
- The vast majority of socially disadvantaged children will meet their individual targets.
- Effective parental support for pupils
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils.
- Having a whole-school approach
- Create a positive school atmosphere in which pupils' differences are recognised and valued as full members of the school community; developing confident and independent learners

Appeals

Any appeal in connection with the disposition of the pupil premium funding will be dealt with through the Governors' appeals panel.