



## **Pupil Premium Policy**

Last reviewed: January 2019

This document applies to all academies and operations of the Vale Academy Trust (the 'Trust').

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## Introduction

*‘Low social mobility and lack of educational opportunity is arguably the biggest social challenge of our times: the income gap between the richest and poorest in society continues to widen, while education opportunities remain overwhelmingly dominated by children from the most privileged homes.’*

*Sutton Trust, 2014*

The Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools on the basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as ‘Ever 6 FSM’). The Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

The Pupil Premium also provides funding for children who have been looked after for 1 day or more, been adopted from care on, or after, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005 or left care under a special guardianship order or a residence order.

The Pupil Premium also provides funds for the children of service personnel, known as a Service Premium.

This policy is linked to:

- The Teaching and Learning Policy of each school in the Trust
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Equality Policy

And is written with reference to, and should be read in conjunction with:

- [Pupil Premium guidance from the DfE, Ofsted and the ESFA](#)
- [Education Endowment Foundation Tool Kit](#)
- [Unseen Children: Access and Achievement 20 years on, Ofsted](#)
- [The Pupil Premium: Analysis and challenge tools for schools](#)
- [School Inspection Handbook, Ofsted](#)

And must be read in conjunction with the ‘Guiding Principles for Pupil Premium’ for each school in the Vale Academy Trust (the ‘Trust’).

### **1.0 Purpose of the Pupil Premium Policy**

The policy outlines how we will ensure that the Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

As a Trust in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school communities for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level. They capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

Through this policy, we shall publish on school websites specific Pupil Premium information; amount of school allocation, plans for spending and evaluation of previous year’s spending.

## **2.0 How we will make decisions regarding the use of the Pupil Premium**

The Trust is accountable for the use of this additional funding. In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our Trust is used solely for its intended purpose.
- Use the latest evidence based research on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.
- Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.
- Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.
- Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.
- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium, by each school and each Local Governing Body (LGB).
- Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not an homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account.
- Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance, whilst also recognising the importance of developing the whole child through identifying and intervening with their social and emotional development where necessary.
- Use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way.
- Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.

The Trust recognises that not all pupils who are eligible for pupil premium are underachieving, while some pupils may be underachieving and not eligible for pupil premium funding. It is our policy to plan, adapt and prepare for any individual, or group, in which any area of under-performance is evident.

## **3.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

We expect all members of the Trust community, particularly staff, governors and directors, to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils. The Inclusion lead for the Trust will maintain an overview of Pupil Premium policy implementation.

### **3.1 The Headteachers and Leadership Teams**

The Headteachers within the Trust and their Leadership Teams are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. They will also ensure that staff are given appropriate

support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupils' progress and attainment. Each Headteacher will identify a Pupil Premium representative in their school who will be the named lead professional for Pupil Premium.

It will be the responsibility of each Headteacher to report to their LGB at regular intervals during the academic year, and each year submit a full report.

### **3.2 Teaching and Support Staff will:**

- maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability'.
- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind.
- keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.

The Trust will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

### **3.3 Local Governing Body (LGB)**

Each LGB has an important role in ensuring their school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps is implemented.

Each LGB will have a named Governor who is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy in their school.

In monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the LGBs will take into account a range of information, including quantitative data (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative data (case studies, views, surveys etc.) as evidence of impact.

At the end of the academic year, LGBs will ensure that there is an annual statement published to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of narrowing the gaps in their school and the impact this has had.

#### **4.0 Monitoring and Reviewing the Policy**

Work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

The Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration the increased funding that becomes available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

The Trust recognises the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies we are using.

The annual review will involve staff, pupils, governors, directors and parents/carers.

#### **5.0 Communication of Policy**

This policy must be made available on all school and Trust websites.