



Pupil premium strategy statement 2024-25

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy
Number of pupils in school	281
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	7.1% (20 children)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2024-25
Date this statement was published	December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	
Statement authorised by	Charlotte Crosse (Head Teacher)
Pupil premium lead	Tess Lambert
Governor / Trustee lead	Bernard Attard

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£40,486
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£40,486

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

The objective of the Pupil Premium strategy at St. Thomas More CVA is to narrow any attainment gap between those pupils categorised as disadvantaged and the school population as a whole. We aim to ensure that these children are able to make progress that is in line with their peers and, where possible, accelerated in order to reduce any attainment gap.

In line with guidance and advice from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), our policy focusses around half of our premium funding on quality first teaching with the remaining funding being split between targeted interventions and wider opportunities. Many of the key interventions and approaches are adopted on a whole school level and are not only restricted to pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium; they incorporate children who are disadvantaged or vulnerable in other ways, for example young carers or children that have or have had a social worker

The key principles of the strategy are that disadvantaged children have access to opportunities, teaching and support that allows them to widen their aspirations, develop their confidence and increase their cultural capital. We also aim to reduce barriers to learning by developing positive home-school relationships with families and providing for the SEMH needs of the children.

Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Overcoming any attainment and progress gap with particular focus on writing, early reading strategies and maths.
2	50% of PP children also have a Special Educational Need. These include Social Emotional and Mental Health needs.
3	Ensuring that attendance of Pupil Premium children is in line with that of other children within the school.
4	Ensuring all children have wider access to extracurricular activities and opportunities in order to broaden cultural capital experiences.

Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for **by the end of our current strategy plan**, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
<p>Attainment and progress measure show that children's achievement is in line with that of non-PP children and in line with national.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear monitoring in termly pupil progress meetings with identification of target pupils for intervention where necessary. Teaching staff to continue to identify gaps in learning and adapt lesson planning accordingly. • Curriculum planning allows for opportunities to address lost learning. • All PP children will pass phonics test. • Children's engagement in writing will improve – evident in quantity and quality of writing improvement.
<p>Children with SEND will make expected or accelerated progress from their starting points. Promotion of social, emotional and mental health needs will ensure all children and staff have strategies to manage the school day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with identified SEND will make at least expected progress and this will be measured carefully through provision mapping and tracking. • Children with identified SEMH needs will be able to access learning throughout the school day. • Staff will use SEMH strategies to successfully support children in school.
<p>Attendance for PP children will be in line with that of non-PP children,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance tracking and analysis for PP children to identify trends and patterns. • Attendance systems and processes applied for any children whose attendance falls below 95% • Additional support for families for attendance where needed
<p>All pupils will have access to a range of extracurricular activities including music, sports clubs and competitions, swimming and trips that may otherwise be restricted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium will go on school trips. • Pupils are given opportunity to access to music opportunities – including choir and music lessons. • Pupils access sporting extracurricular opportunities including trips, afterschool sports clubs and school events.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium **academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £ 27,423

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional teacher to support specific needs in a smaller group setting	Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools EEF	1&2
<i>Embedding a systematic approach to teaching phonics</i> Letters and Sounds A complete Phonics resource to support children (littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base that indicates a positive impact on the accuracy of word reading, particularly for disadvantaged pupils: Phonics EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1
<i>Reading is given a high priority in school so that standards of attainment and progress are maintained:</i>	Reading comprehension strategies EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) Oral language interventions EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1
Whole class feedback	Feedback EEF	1

Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £ 5373

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Little Wandle phonics catch up sessions and rapid catch up interventions (KS2) for any children not passing PSC or	Phonics EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1 and 2

identified through assessment.	Parental engagement EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) Impact + 4 months	
Specific school librarian to enable children to access high quality books	What does an effective school library look like?	1

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £7690

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Attendance support and monitoring. Agreed meet and greet for identified children Attendance tracking and analysis. Systems and processes for monitoring persistent absence. Attendance awards& encouragement	Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	3
To purchase the Silver SEMH package	Social and emotional learning approaches have a positive impact, on average, of 4 months' additional progress in academic outcomes over the course of an academic year. Being able to effectively manage emotions will be beneficial to children and young people even if it does not translate to reading or maths scores.	2
Subsidised trips and swimming lessons for Pupil Premium children	The national curriculum requires that All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. Children must be taught to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres using a range of strokes effectively. We ensure that all children are able to access this area of the curriculum by subsidising a ten-week swimming programme in year 5 and 6.	3
Subsidised access to Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club for Pupil Premium children	Access to Breakfast clubs for disadvantaged families mean that they have a larger window in which to drop their children off at school. The breakfast that is provided at the club ensures that all children are fed and ready to start learning	4

Access to alternative provision where necessary	Supporting the individual and complex needs of all children. Ensuring they can learn in a safe environment What the evidence tells us about good-quality Alternative Provision - The Centre for Social Justice	
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Total budgeted cost: £ 40,486