

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pupil Premium 25-26



Pupil premium strategy statement for Mount St Joseph Catholic school

This statement details Mount St Joseph's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged students.

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. Plan commenced Sept 2024

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Mount St Joseph Catholic School
Number of students in school	904
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible students	35.9
Academic year/years that our current student premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2024/25 to 2026/7
Date this statement was published	September 2024 Review 1 Sept 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Statement authorised by	Mrs A Devany Headteacher
Student premium lead	Mr S Henshaw Deputy Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Mrs Marie Mannion Chair of Governors

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£392265
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	£392265

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our mission is that all students, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make excellent progress and achieve high attainment across the curriculum and are fully prepared with the necessary skills and knowledge for life after school.

The aim of our student premium strategy is to support disadvantaged students to achieve that goal, making sure they all make maximum progress. We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable students, such as those who have a social worker and young carers, and put into place support measures where needed. The activities outlined are intended to support the needs of all, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

High-quality teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged students require the most support. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantaged attainment gap and at the same time will benefit the non-disadvantaged students in our school. This means all students at Mount St Joseph will make good progress and be well prepared for life beyond school with a choice of career paths available. It must always be the intention that non-disadvantaged students' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers. Through high quality first teaching and interventions for all where needed this should be the case. Our strategy is also a key part of wider school plans notably in targeted support and intervention through strategies such as school led tutoring for students.

Our approach will be flexible to upcoming challenges, the needs of the school population as a whole and individual student need, and will be measured by robust standardised formal assessment and student voice. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help students excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged students are challenged and motivated to produce the best work possible and thus high levels of progress.
- act early to identify need and to put into place interventions to support students to get back on track
- ensure a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged students' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Attainment and progress of disadvantaged students is generally lower than that of their peers. Although disadvantaged students Progress 8 scores at Mount St Joseph have been in line those nationally with an equivalent gap, a gap still exists between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged progress. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic this was closing but evidence now shows that it is once again widening, and although this was improved this year with an initial progress gap of -0.37 (2024), every effort must be made to reverse this and once again start to close the gaps in progress.</p>
2	<p>Curriculum engagement - Evidence shows many disadvantaged pupils lack metacognitive / self-regulation strategies when faced with challenging tasks, notably in their monitoring and evaluation of their answers. This is indicated across the curriculum, particularly maths, geography, R.E. and science. This in turn can lead to lack of motivation and aspiration and students turning off from the curriculum being enacted.</p>
3	<p>Our assessments, observations and discussions with pupils and families suggest that the education and wellbeing of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been hugely impacted over recent years and to a greater extent than for other pupils. These findings are backed up by several national studies. This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps resulting in pupils falling further behind age-related expectations.</p>
4	<p>Attendance data shows attendance amongst disadvantaged students has been on average 4% lower than attendance for non-disadvantaged students over the past three years.</p>
5	<p>Resilience- discussions with students, their families' and from assessments show that disadvantaged students often have lower levels of resilience leading to issues in learning, but also social and emotional issues, such as anxiety and low self-esteem. This often stems from a lack of future opportunities within the local area, low aspirations and the lack of opportunities at earlier stages of life to take risks and build resilience.</p>
6	<p>Parental engagement- discussions with students and their families indicate the need to further develop engagement with parents. This is obviously a vital area to ensure good progress, attainment and all-round development of students. The parents of disadvantaged students are more likely to have negative views of school, often from their own experiences, and are thus less likely to engage with schools. This has been further compounded by the effects of the pandemic on families and children and this must be reversed to aid increased progress and the development of skills for future life.</p>

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
Increased progress and attainment amongst disadvantaged students across the whole curriculum.	<p>In 2026/7 at the end of this current plan outcomes for disadvantaged students will be:</p> <p>Progress 8 scores of -0.2 or above</p> <p>Attainment 8 average score of 4.5</p> <p>An EBacc average point score of 4.2</p> <p>The attainment/ progress gap to have been narrowed significantly to -0.25 or less</p>
Improved metacognitive and self-regulatory skills among disadvantaged pupils across all subjects enabling higher levels of curriculum engagement.	<p>Teacher reports, class observations and student voice as well as progress data suggest disadvantaged pupils are more able to monitor and regulate their own learning. This is supported by increased homework completion rates across all classes and subjects, increased attitude to learning scores and increased attainment through curriculum engagement.</p>
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils	<p>Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 5%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by over 50%. •the percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below 14% and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being no more than 2% higher than their peers.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged.	<p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations. •Increased participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our student premium (and recovery premium funding) **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £290,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional staffing deployed in English and Maths departments	<p>Acquiring disciplinary literacy is key for students as they learn new, more complex concepts in each subject:</p> <p>Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools</p> <p>Reading comprehension, vocabulary and other literacy skills are heavily linked with attainment in maths and English:</p> <p>word-gap.pdf (oup.com.cn)</p> <p>Enhancement of our maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE KS3 and EEF guidance.</p> <p>The DfE non-statutory KS3 guidance has been produced in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, drawing on evidence-based approaches:</p> <p>Teaching mathematics at key stage 3 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>To teach maths well, teachers need to assess pupils' prior knowledge and understanding effectively, employ manipulatives and representations, teach problem solving strategies, and help pupils to develop more complex mental models:</p> <p>KS2_KS3_Maths_Guidance_2017.pdf (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit</p>	1,2,3
Extension of school day for students in year 11.	<p>Additional teaching time allows students and teachers to address gaps in learning and to build confidence and depth of learning. As laid out:</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/The EEF guide to supporting school planning - A tiered approach to 2021.pdf</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit</p>	1,2,3
Implementation of a	Great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve outcomes for their pupils. Ensuring every teacher is	2

training programme that focuses on developing engagement, learning strategies and AFL through excellence at MSJ strategy.	<p>supported and prepared for this academic year is essential to achieving the best outcomes for pupils.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for professional development on whole class teaching—for example, to support curriculum planning or focused training on effective teaching using technology—is likely to be valuable. This may need to be coordinated to match new priorities, such as developing approaches to remote learning, alongside existing habits and practices, including maintaining and sustaining behavioural routines.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/The_EEF_guide_to_supporting_school_planning_-_A_tiered_approach_to_2021.pdf</p> <p>Evidence shows that a focus on AfL and planning is the way to great teaching. The excellence at MSJ strategy focuses on this through a series of pedagogical principles and cultural principles tied to instructional coaching to ensure that all staff are delivering quality first teaching at all times.</p> <p>https://www.walkthrus.co.uk/</p>	
Developing metacognitive and self-regulation skills in all pupils. This will involve ongoing teacher training and support and release time.	<p>Teaching metacognitive strategies to pupils can be an inexpensive method to help pupils become more independent learners. There is particularly strong evidence that it can have a positive impact on attainment:</p> <p>Metacognition and self-regulation Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit</p>	2,3,5

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

Budgeted cost: £80000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional staffing for school led tutoring across the school timetable.	<p>One to one tuition in schools has a high impact on the students accessing this intervention and can improve attainment by over 5 months.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit</p>	1,2,3

To provide all disadvantaged students with support materials such as revision guides.	Removal of barriers to learning have obvious impacts on progress. Providing materials to enable students to learn at home supports homework which is shown to have over 5 months impact on progress particularly when supporting in class learning or part of flipped learning. The support materials provide the means to enable disadvantaged students to do this. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework	3
Timetabled intervention groups for students.	Small group tuition can improve attainment by over four months and when combined with the collaborative learning taking place in these intervention groups a further five months can be added to improvement allowing a swift and supported attempt to close gaps in learning. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit	1, 2, 3
Development of extra-curricular programs e.g. Brilliant club to raise aspirations.	Aspiration interventions are still the subject of much study to determine the overall impact and the Sutton Trust and EEF are conducting research into this area. However it is clear from student voice that programmes such as these allow students to develop cultural capital, build aspirations and future career planning and so impact on attainment as they provide students with the drive and motivation to strive for these aspirations.	2, 5

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

Budgeted cost: £80500

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
ASPIRE (PP) coordinator in place.	The EEF toolkit shows evidence that aspiration interventions and social and emotional learning have over 4 months impact on attainment. It is vital that these efforts are co-ordinated and effectively evaluated to allow flexibility and alterations as needed. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit	1,2,3, 4,5,6.

Parental support sessions delivered across the year	<p>The average impact of the Parental engagement approaches is about an additional four months' progress over the course of a year. There are also higher impacts for pupils with low prior attainment.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/parental-engagement</p>	6
To use the intervention centre to provide sessions to give students strategies to cope with stress etc.	<p>Social and emotional learning combined with small group tuition can improve progress by over 8 months in combination.</p> <p>The average impact of successful SEL interventions is an additional four months' progress over the course of a year. The security of this evidence is, however, very low, so schools should carefully monitor the efficacy of approaches in their own settings. Alongside academic outcomes, SEL interventions have an identifiable and valuable impact on attitudes to learning and social relationships in school.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning</p> <p>The average impact of the small group tuition is four additional months' progress, on average, over the course of a year. Evidence shows that small group tuition is effective and, as a rule of thumb, the smaller the group the better. Some studies suggest that greater feedback from the teacher, more sustained the engagement in smaller groups, or work which is more closely matched to learners' needs explains this impact. Once group size increases above six or seven there is a noticeable reduction in effectiveness.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition</p>	3,5
To provide an academic subsidy to enable disadvantaged students to build cultural capital.	<p>Building cultural capital in disadvantaged students is key in closing gaps in progress and attainment. Evidence for this can be found in many research papers for example: Social Class Differences in Family-School Relationships: The Importance of Cultural Capital, Annette Lareau.</p> <p>https://www.jstor.org/stable/2112583</p> <p>and also in the government publication against the odds</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/997897/Against_the_odds_report.pdf</p>	5
Identified cohort of PP students invited to attend transition sessions including English / maths / science /	<p>The aim of this intervention is to support the learning of students who will be joining Mount St Joseph in the future, to familiarise them with the school and staff, but also to enable small group mastery learning to take place.</p> <p>The impact of mastery learning approaches is an additional five months progress, on average, over the course of a year. Mastery learning also appears to be particularly effective when pupils are given opportunities to work in groups or teams and take responsibility for supporting each other's progress.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/mastery-learning</p> <p>The average impact of the small group tuition is four additional months' progress, on average, over the course of a year. Thus combined with mastery learning this gives a large boost to progress over the course of a year.</p>	2,3,5

	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/implementation	
Transition summer school to be held.	<p>On average, evidence suggests that pupils who attend a summer school make approximately three additional months' progress compared to similar pupils who do not attend a summer school.</p> <p>Greater impact can be achieved when summer schools are intensive, well-resourced, and involve small group or one to one teaching by trained and experienced teachers.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/summer-schools</p>	5
Attendance action plans put into place for PP students.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced persistent absence levels.	4
Breakfast club for targeted PP students to provide breakfast and work on resilience and wellbeing.	<p>The average impact of successful SEL interventions is an additional four months' progress over the course of a year. The security of this evidence is, however, very low, so schools should carefully monitor the efficacy of approaches in their own settings. Alongside academic outcomes, SEL interventions have an identifiable and valuable impact on attitudes to learning and social relationships in school.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning</p>	5
Year 11 wellbeing and revision activity sessions.	<p>The impact of collaborative approaches on learning is consistently positive, with pupils making an additional 5 months' progress, on average, over the course of an academic year. However, the size of impact varies, so it is important to get the detail right.</p> <p>Collaborative learning can describe a large variety of approaches, but effective collaborative learning requires much more than just sitting pupils together and asking them to work in pairs or group; structured approaches with well-designed tasks lead to the greatest learning gains.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/collaborative-learning-approaches</p>	2,5

Total budgeted cost: £450500

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Student premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our student premium activity had on students in 2024 to 2025.

Our external assessments (GCSE and BTEC) showed that the performance of disadvantaged pupils in 2025 was slightly higher in most aspects, than in 2024 in key areas of the curriculum. Due to the lack of KS2 data there is no P8 for this cohort. The attainment gap narrowed in 2025 from -13.32 to -4.89. Attainment 8 increased to 37.61 in 2025 (national average 34.5). At basics 9-7 (English and maths) the gap was reversed with PP students doing better than their peers by +4.5%. Results at strong basics measures were in line with 2019 data for this cohort, but reflecting the lower ability of the group from their entry points and CAT data were lower than in 2025 at 21.7% vs 36.4%. However, a dip in non-pp performance at 9-5 means the gap narrowed from -22.9% to -14.7%. At standard pass basics (9-4 English and maths), the performance of PP students increased by 12.2% to 52.2%. This combined with a lower performance for non-PP students narrowed the gap from -22.2% to -2.9%. Results at Mount St Joseph are usually in line with National average P8 for disadvantaged, and this would be expected to be similar if this data was available.

Attainment 8 increased from 34.23 to 37.61 in 2025. In most subject areas in 2025 the performance gap between PP and non PP students was narrowed compared to 2024. This was seen at basics 4+, and 7+. It was also seen at 4+ in English language, maths, computer science, art, photography, geography, French, Spanish, biology, chemistry, combined science, and food preparation. A similar picture was seen in vocational qualifications with the gap at pass or above narrowing in music, health and social care and I.T.

Gaps were also narrowed at 5+ in English language and literature, maths, computer science, photography, geography, history, R.E., biology, chemistry and combined science and at merit or above in music, enterprise (business), health and social care, I.T. And sport studies. Gaps were also narrowed at 7+ in English literature, photography, geography, French, Spanish, R.E. and at Distinction or higher in Health and social care. A number of departments saw PP students achieve higher than non PP students reversing the gap. These were art at 9-4, photography at 9-4, French at 9-4 and 9-7, Spanish at 9-4 and 9-7, biology and chemistry at 9-4 and 9-5, music at D*-P and D*-M and health and social care D*-P and D*-D. Achievement was also better than 2024 for PP student in 2023 in the following subject areas; maths 5+, art 4+, photography 4+, 5+, 7+, French 4+, R.E. 5+, biology, 4+, 5+, chemistry 4+, 5+, design technology 4+, 5+ and food preparation 4+. This was also seen in music, health and

social care and I.T. at P+, M+ and D+. Improved performance against 2024 data was also seen in drama at P+ and D+.

Despite continuing to make gains in closing the attainment gap (compared to 2024 and 2019), the outcomes we aimed to achieve as part of our strategy by the end of 2023 were therefore not fully realised and as predicted the gap was not closed due to the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on disadvantaged students and the socio-economic factors at play. Our assessment of the reasons for these outcomes points partly to Covid-19 impact, which disrupted student learning at KS2 to varying degrees and still has an impact as gaps are closed in learning for students over time.

Overall attendance in 2024/25 for pupil premium students was higher than in the previous year at 87.8% compared to 91.9% for non-pp students (national average for all students was 92.44%). This reduced the gap from -5.42% to -4.1% showing the gap is narrowing and attendance improving for PP students. Attendance is one focus of our current whole school action plan. In term 1a 25-26 attendance for PP students was 88.9% with non-pp at 92.8% showing a reduction in gap to 3.9% so far.

PP suspensions have unfortunately increased from 149 to 211, whilst non-pp have reduced from 101 to 68. This means that PP suspensions account for 75.6% of all suspensions and the gap size widened to +101 or +52.2%.

Our internal assessments demonstrated that pupil behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly impacted over the last five years, primarily due to COVID-19-related issues. This impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged pupils. We used and will continue to use pupil premium funding to provide wellbeing support for all pupils, and targeted interventions where required. We are building on that approach in our updated plan with a disadvantaged co-ordinator in place building and implementing further strategies to close the gap. In addition there will be a focus on long term memory skills, metacognition and recall and retention techniques to help students recall learning more easily, make more progress and further close the gap.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England

Programme	Provider

Service student premium funding (optional)

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service student premium allocation last academic year?	N/A- we receive no funding.
What was the impact of that spending on service student premium eligible students?	N/A

Further information (optional)

Additional activities

Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:

- embedding more effective practice around feedback. EEF evidence demonstrates this has significant benefits for students, particularly disadvantaged students.
- ensuring students understand our 'catch-up' plan by providing information about the support they will receive (including targeted interventions listed above), how the curriculum will be delivered, and what is expected of them. This will help to address concerns around learning loss - one of the main drivers of student anxiety.
- offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration. Activities (e.g., The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Brilliant club, Prince's Trust support), will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising. Disadvantaged students will be encouraged and supported to participate.

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In planning our new pupil premium strategy, we evaluated why activity undertaken in previous years had not had the degree of impact that we had expected. We also discussed this with other schools in our local area to determine the effects that had been seen within their schools to get a local perspective.

We triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, engagement in class, work scrutiny, conversations with parents, students and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged students.

We looked at a number of reports and studies about effective use of pupil premium, the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at a number of studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged students.

We used the EEF's implementation guidance to help us develop our strategy and will continue to use it through the implementation of our activities.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/implementation>

We have put a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach. The plan is flexible and will be reviewed regularly to allow us to adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for students.

