

Pupil premium strategy statement – Hickling Infant Academy

Before completing this template, read the Education Endowment Foundation's [guide to the pupil premium](#) and DfE's [pupil premium guidance for school leaders](#), which includes the 'menu of approaches'. It is for school leaders to decide what activity to spend their pupil premium on, within the framework set out by the menu.

All schools that receive pupil premium are required to use this template to complete and publish a pupil premium statement on their school website by 31 December every academic year.

If you are starting a new pupil premium strategy plan, use this blank template. If you are continuing a strategy plan from last academic year, you may prefer to edit your existing statement, if that version was published using the template.

Before publishing your completed statement, delete the instructions (text in italics) in this template, and this text box.

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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	16
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	6.3%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement each academic year)	2024-2027
Date this statement was published	4/12/2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	4/12/2026
Statement authorised by	Natalie Butcher (Exec Head)
Pupil premium lead	Natalie Butcher (Exec Head)
Governor / Trustee lead	Sheila Watts (Chair of LGB)

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£ 1,515
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£ 0
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£1,515

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across all subject areas. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve that goal, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and young carers. The activity we have outlined in this statement is also intended to support their needs, 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 pupils require the most support. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time will benefit the non-disadvantaged pupils in our school. Implicit in the intended outcomes detailed below, is the intention that non-disadvantaged pupils' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our strategy is also integral to wider school plans for education recovery, notably in its targeted support for individual and small groups of pupils.

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set

act early to intervene at the point need is identified

- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Our assessments indicate that many of our disadvantaged pupils have specific gaps in learning in Maths, GPS and/or Reading. Without addressing these, they are unlikely to meet the standard they are capable of whether that is expected or higher standard.
2	Our assessments, observations and discussions indicate that spelling is a specific barrier for many of our disadvantaged pupils. If this is not addressed, then this will prevent their development in writing which could in turn act as a barrier to achievement in the wider curriculum.

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
Adapted teaching and interventions/therapies will be targeted to remove gaps in learning.	<p>A rigorous analysis of summative assessment at question level will take place for all pupils at least termly. This data will be used to determine how lessons can be adapted and interventions/therapies will be delivered to address.</p> <p>Improvements in % of PP children achieving EXS and HS across reading, GPS and Maths.</p>
Pupils spelling outcomes will improve. This will lead to higher outcomes in writing as well as the wider curriculum where writing is a tool for recording.	<p>Teaching will ensure pupils access a high quality spelling curriculum. Where pupils have gaps in knowledge or a specific barrier, interventions/therapies will be delivered to address these.</p> <p>Improvements in % of PP children achieving EXS and HS in spelling.</p>

Activity in this academic year

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

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

Budgeted cost: £ 1,515

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
PiXL subscription to allow support QLA and provide targeted therapies to address gaps in learning.	<p>Small group tuition approaches can support pupils to make effective progress by providing intensive, targeted academic support to those identified as having low prior attainment or at risk of falling behind. The approach allows the teacher to focus on the needs of a small number of learners and provide teaching that is closely matched to pupil understanding. Small group tuition offers an opportunity for greater levels of interaction and feedback compared to whole class teaching which can support pupils to overcome barriers to learning and increase their access to the curriculum.</p> <p>EEF – small group tuition</p>	1
Delivery and resourcing of Little Wandle Keep Up	<p>Studies in England have shown that pupils eligible for free school meals typically receive similar or slightly greater benefit from phonics interventions and approaches. This is likely to be due to the explicit nature of the instruction and the intensive support provided.</p> <p>It is possible that some disadvantaged pupils may not develop phonological awareness at the same rate as other pupils, having been exposed to fewer words spoken and books read in the home. Targeted phonics interventions may therefore improve decoding skills more quickly for pupils who have experienced these barriers to learning.</p> <p>EEF - Phonics</p>	2

Total budgeted cost: £1,515

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

2024-25 National Assessments

EYFS

- *As only 1 PP in the cohort, unable to report to protect identity.*

Phonics Screening – Y1

- *There were no PP children in this cohort.*

Phonics Screening – Y2 retake

- *There were no PP children in this cohort.*

Outcome 1 - Adapted teaching and interventions/therapies will be targeted to remove gaps in learning.

Our ongoing summative data shows PP achieving broadly in line with their peers. A rigorous assessment cycle and analysis of this ensures gaps in learning are identified quickly and actioned. This will continue to be an area for focus to ensure systems and fully embedded and new staff are inducted effectively in their implementation.

Outcome 2 - Pupils spelling outcomes will improve. This will lead to higher outcomes in writing as well as the wider curriculum where writing is a tool for recording. Focused work has led to improved results shown in our summative data. This work was primarily focused on completing question level analysis following assessments, and targeting teaching towards this. In addition, the spelling programme through Little Wandle has been researched and shown to be highly effective with successful outcomes. In the Summer of 2025 CPD was accessed by all staff and the programme implemented from September 2025.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you used your pupil premium to fund in the previous academic year.

Programme	Provider
CUSP	Unity Schools Partnership
Little Wandle	Wandle Learning Trust