

Pupil Premium Funding Statement 2019-20

Background:

The Government believes that Pupil Premium, (funding in addition to main school funding) is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and their peers. The funding helps to tackle those inequalities of the pupils who need it most.

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College to work with pupils who have either been registered for free school meals at any point within the last six years, children who have been on a Local Authority's looked after children register (and have been registered continuously for more than six months), and children of service personnel.

Rationale:

Pupil Premium funding at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College is focused upon helping students to make progress academically and socially. Funding is used to improve curriculum opportunities for Pupil Premium Students. This includes more targeted teaching and bespoke intervention and delivering high quality teaching and learning.

Funds are used to ensure that needs of pupil premium students are of strategic importance at SLT level. Raising the profile of Pupil Premium students in staff meetings and by highlighting students ensures their needs are at the forefront of staff planning in all subject areas. St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College employs a Pupil Premium Mentor to ensure that there is continuous support for students through the key stages. This also allows more sustained and open dialogue to support pupil progress with parents and carers.

All students eligible for Pupil Premium receive bespoke support to demonstrate the value the school places on all pupils achieving their full potential in all aspects of their academic career.

Funding is used to encourage pupil participation and give opportunities to achieve outside of the classroom environment as well as in the taught curriculum. Pupil premium funds have allowed the school to subsidise a range of opportunities for outward bound, residential and overseas visits. Specific examples of those opportunities are the Diocesan retreats at the Youth Village and Holy Island, opportunities to attend the school sports trip to Spain, History Visits to WW1 Battlefields and RE visits to Rome and Duke of Edinburgh outward bound programme to be specific. The aim of these visits has been to provide enriching experiences for students and broadening their aspirations for the future.

Use of Pupil Premium in 2019-20:

The Pupil Premium funding for St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College in the academic year 2019-20 is £172,000. Whilst continuing with all of the above, we have also now also been able to provide the following:

Pupil premium staff: £36,000– the school employs a number of staff to support the progress of identified pupils. For example, SENDco, Mentor coordinator.

Pupil premium mentors and dedicated HLTA Learning mentor: £13,000– a number of mentors are available to provide 1:1 support for students to maximise their academic and pastoral progress.

Assistant Head of House positions: £13,000 – Staff to track progress of disadvantaged pupils within house system and be first point of contact for families to build up relationships.

Attendance officers: £20,000 – the school employs 2 full time attendance officers to monitor and support the progress of vulnerable students and engage with parents and carers to improve the attendance of pupils.

Pastoral Secretary: £1000 – to support admin needs of pastoral team.

School Counsellor: £10,500 - The school counsellor provides emotional support to our vulnerable students and families enabling them to attend school regularly knowing there is this invaluable support available.

Summer school: £10,000 – transition activities aimed at supporting KS2-3 transition for disadvantaged pupils.

Online learning platforms: £22,000 – Access to platforms like Hegarty Maths and GCSEpod subscriptions to support independent and wider learning for students. Edlounge provides remote learning for students unable to attend school or excluded.

Learning support time: £20,000- For students with additional learning needs, learning support time is available to offer them bespoke and 1:1 support.

Inclusion and behaviour support: £8000 - identified member of staff to oversee Inclusion use and monitor progress of students to reduce fixed term exclusions and signpost pathways and routes to improve behaviour of a small number of students.

Exam Access arrangements: £1,500 – providing extra invigilators and small room provision for students who need this support to complete exams.

Lexonik: £2000 – Lexonik is a literacy programme used to help accelerate pupils progress at the start of GCSE courses at the end of Y9 and in Y12.

Revision weekend: £4,000 – weekend “Revision retreat” for identified Y11 students to prepare them for exams and develop revision and study skills and offer outdoor education experience.

CPD: £2000 – at the heart of raising achievement for Disadvantaged pupils is improving the quality of teaching and learning and the skills and understanding of teachers in overcoming the barriers that students face in their learning.

Reading Programme: £15,000 – Improving pupil literacy is at the centre of many of the teaching and learning approaches and the reading programme sustain improvements in pupils reading abilities.

School visits and curriculum enrichment: £8,000- provides students access to enrichment opportunities offered in school through activities week, clubs and visits.

Uniform and equipment: £3000 – removes barriers to learning with a practical solution.

Study Guides: £4,000 – ensures students have access to high quality revision resources.

Subsidised music lessons: £2000 - Ensures pupils are not prevented from receiving instrumental instruction because of cost.

One to one tuition and study support English and Maths: £6000 – allows pupils to access one to one support in core subjects.

Year 11 activities: £2000 – support pupils’ social and pastoral development allowing them to access a range of activities with their peers.

Impact of funding 2019-20

Results demonstrate in 2020 there was an increase in progress (P8) and attainment (A8) for disadvantaged pupils. It ought to be notes that these were based on Centre Assessed grades. Up to the period of school closure there was an increased attendance and engagement with parents’ evenings. Destination data demonstrates students progressing to Russell group universities and higher-level apprenticeships. We are significantly below national average rates for NEETS in 2020.

