

St Giles School Pupil premium grant expenditure: Report to governors: 2019/2020

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium was introduced by the Government to provide additional funding to address the gap in educational attainment and long term economic well-being between socially disadvantaged children and young people compared to their peers.

Primary pupils who are currently eligible for free school meals or have been eligible in the past 6 years will attract £1,320 and secondary pupils will attract £935.

Principles for supporting socially disadvantaged pupils:

43% of pupils at St Giles qualify for the Pupil Premium. The pupils are in every class and across the ability range. St Giles is a specialist school and all our pupils have learning difficulties, with additional physical disabilities, medical needs or complex speech and language difficulties.

At St Giles we want every pupil to make as much progress as they possibly can – academically, socially and emotionally. Due to the wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities a high level of differentiation and personalised learning is required. This demands a very high level of staffing, well qualified and up to date staff, and specialist resources.

All of our funding, including the Pupil Premium, is used highly effectively to ensure that no child is disadvantaged and that all make good progress. Analysis of our data shows that this is the case.

Additionally, we have used our school fund to support disadvantaged pupils to be able to attend a residential school journey to take part in outdoor and adventurous activities as well as developing independence skills.

A well planned INSET and staff meeting programme is in place to increase teacher and support staff skills linked to a focussed School Development Plan. This ensures staff develop the specialist skills to meet the individual needs of all our pupils.

Context

Number of pupils on roll	103
Number of Pupils eligible for FSM	40 FSM 3 EVER 6
Total amount of Pupil Premium received 2019/2020	£53,715

Provision	Approximate cost
Family Support Advisor to offer a range of support to vulnerable children and their families and to support transition	£39,332.64
Access support - an experienced member of staff works with pupils, staff and therapists across the school to ensure all pupils have specialist equipment in place to support their access to the curriculum	£3,527.41
ELSA – supporting mental health and emotional literacy to enable pupils to access learning	£13,544.04
Music Therapy - to support early communication and mental health	£8,295.00
Total	£64,699.09

Summary of spending and actions taken:

Every year we identify focus areas. This year, because of the Covid pandemic, the focus has been on supporting pupils who have not always been able to attend school.

Our Family Support Advisor supports families to access services and out of school activities. Many of the parents most in need of this service have children who attract the pupil premium. Our Family Support Advisor worked throughout the first national lockdown to support families with advice about family finances, routines for children and Covid related carer and housing issues.

Many of our pupils also have emotional needs, and our ELSA – Emotional Literacy Support Assistant – runs sessions with identified pupils to support them through short term or long term issues. This has particularly helped pupils moving on from St Giles and helped them to develop strategies to cope with their anxieties about change and loss. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this support has been virtual as well as in person.

Music therapy is a particularly valuable for pupils who are at very early stages of communication and who respond particularly well to music. Children begin to be more proactive, to engage with others and, most importantly, to enjoy learning. Our music therapist worked to support pupils at the beginning of the first national lockdown with videos for the home learning section of the website.

Physical disability can be a real barrier to learning. Our Access coordinator continues to work with pupils and staff to find solutions to access problems. This could be a high tech joystick, key board or switch or a low tech symbol stand. Equipment for pupils has been sent home for those pupils based at home. The access coordinator also spent time producing videos for parents supporting their children at home on the Home Learning section of the website.

We always spend over our pupil premium on additional support for our pupils to ensure that all our pupils can achieve their very best.

Measuring the Impact of Pupil Premium Funding

St Giles tracks progress during the year and puts interventions into place for children making less than expected progress. Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been more challenging to track and analyse progress data this year. Analysis of pupil progress data during the first part of the year before lockdown shows that over 80% of both the group of children and pupils who attract Pupil Premium and those who do not, were making good or outstanding progress towards their cognition and learning and communication targets.

Analysis of data from the baselining of pupils during the Autumn Term 2020 shows that:

- Pupils with moderate learning difficulties following a formal, subject based curriculum typically made the same progress as their peers who did not receive pupil premium. Progress in reading for pupil premium pupils was markedly higher than non-pupil MLD premium pupils.
- Pupils with severe learning difficulties following a semi-formal curriculum made slightly less progress than their non-pupil premium peers.
- Pupils with profound and multiple learning disabilities following a pre-formal curriculum made less progress than their non-pupil premium peers. While fewer issues were reported for PMLD pupil premium pupils with physiotherapy, there were a larger number of issues with anxiety and associated behaviours for these pupils.
- A greater proportion of pupils receiving pupil premium were reported to be experiencing difficulties with communication and behaviours linked to anxiety compared to those not receiving pupil premium.

These findings are being used to support decision making about the use of Pupil Premium Funding

during the academic year 2020-21.
Date of next review: July 2021