# Pupil premium strategy statement

## This statement details our school’s use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2023 to 2024 academic year) 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. Norbert’s Catholic Voluntary Academy |
| Number of pupils in school | 207 |
| Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils | 22.22% |
| Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers **(3 year plans are recommended)** | 2021/2022 to  2024/2025 |
| Date this statement was published | Dec 2024 |
| Date on which it will be reviewed | Dec 2025 |
| Statement authorised by | Local Governing Board  Jenna Withers,  Headteacher |
| Pupil premium lead | Sarah Hibbert,  Deputy Headteacher |
| Governor / Trustee lead | Jan Bowser, Lead for Pupil Premium |

**Funding overview**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Detail** | **Amount** |
| Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year | £ 64,960.80 |
| Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year | £ 0 |
| 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 | £ 64,960.80 |

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

|  |
| --- |
| At St. Norbert’s Catholic Voluntary Academy we are committed to providing the best possible education for every individual pupil. When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school and the subsequent challenges faced. This alongside research conducted by the EEF. Common barriers to learning for disadvantaged children can be: less support at home, English spoken as an additional language, challenges in language, communication and confidence, more frequent behaviour difficulties and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied, therefore it is important to consider each child on an individual basis and that they are given every opportunity to realise their potential.We will ensure that all teaching staff and relevant support staff are involved in the analysis of data andidentification of pupils, so that all parties have an understanding of strengths and areas for development across the school.  **Principles**  • We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all  pupils  • We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable  groups, this includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are  adequately assessed and addressed  • In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged  • We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.  • Pupil premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals. Limited funding and resources means that not all children receiving free school meals will be in receipt of pupil premium interventions at one time.  **Ultimate Objectives**   * To narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally and also within internal school data. * For all disadvantaged pupils in school to reach nationally expected progress   rates in order to obtain Age Related Expectation at the end of Year 6  **Achieving these Objectives**  The range of provision the Governors consider making for this group include and would  not be limited to:  • To provide small group work with an experienced health mentor focussed on overcoming barriers to learning and social and emotional areas of need.  • 1-1 support  • Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through external agencies  • All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age-related expectations.  • Pupil premium resources are to be used to support pupils to achieve Age Related Expectations  • Transition from primary to secondary and transition internally and into EYFS.  • Additional learning support.  • Pay for all activities, educational visits and residential. Ensuring children have first-hand experiences to use in their learning in the classroom.  • Support the funding of specialist learning software.  • To allow the children to learn a musical instrument  • Behaviour and nurture support during lunchtimes by providing activities to engage and promote St. Norbert’s values and thus enhance learning.  This list is not exhaustive and will change according to the needs and support our socially disadvantaged pupils require. |

## Challenges

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Challenge number | Detail of challenge |
| 1 | Reading skills, language acquisition and grammar  Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate underdeveloped oral language skills and vocabulary gaps among many disadvantaged pupils. These are evident from Reception through to KS2 and are further impacted by those who speak English as an additional language. As a result this has impacted on reading and writing skills and within the majority of year groups disadvantaged pupil’s attainment is below non-disadvantaged pupils. |
| 2 | Phonological awareness and decoding skills  Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils suggest disadvantaged pupils generally have greater difficulties with phonics than their peers which impacts on their understanding and development in reading. |
| 3 | Low attainment in basic maths skills  Assessments, observations, and discussions with pupils indicate that Maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is below that of non-disadvantaged pupils in KS2. |
| 4 | Metacognition and Self-regulation linked to COVID-19  Our assessments and observations indicate that the metacognition and ability to use self-regulation strategies of many of our disadvantaged pupils have been impacted by partial school closures to a greater extent than for other pupils. These findings are supported by national studies.  This has resulted in significant knowledge gaps leading to pupils falling further behind age-related expectations, especially in reading and writing. |
| 5 | Social and emotional wellbeing linked to COVID-19  Our assessments (including wellbeing survey), observations and discussions with pupils and families have identified social and emotional concerns for many pupils, notably due anxiety regarding returning to school and friendship groups, as well as a lack of enrichment opportunities during school closure. These challenges particularly affect disadvantaged pupils, including their attainment. |
| 6 | Low attendance rates  Our attendance data over the last 2 years indicates that attendance among disadvantaged pupils has been between 96 - 97% which is in line with our school’s expectations. Although this has improved over the past year it is slightly below the school’s academic target this year at 94.45% |

## 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 |
| Improved oral language skills and vocabulary among disadvantaged pupils. | Assessments and observations indicate significantly improved oral language among disadvantaged pupils. This is evident when triangulated with other sources of evidence, including engagement in lessons, book scrutiny and ongoing formative assessment. |
| Improved reading and writing attainment among disadvantaged pupils. | KS2 reading outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 70% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard. KS1 phonics assessments show that more than 75% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard. |
| Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2. | KS2 maths outcomes in 2024/25 show that more than 70% of disadvantaged pupils met the expected standard. |
| To achieve and sustain improved resilience and independence for all pupils, particularly those who are disadvantaged | Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by:   * a significant increase in participation in whole class learning * Pupils are able to use a range of strategies to support their independence in learning * qualitative data from pupil voice, pupil and parent surveys and teacher observations |
| To achieve and sustain improved mental health and wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils. | Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by:   * qualitative data from pupil voice, pupil and parent surveys and teacher observations * a significant reduction in anxiety * a significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils |
| To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils. | Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by:   * The overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 3%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 5%. |

## Activity in this academic year

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

### Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £*37,136*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Purchase of a DfE validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Rapid Catch up and Fluency resources to secure stronger phonics teaching for all pupils. | Extensive evidence suggests Systematic Synthetic Phonics is an important component in the development of early reading skills, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Phonics improves the accuracy of the child’s reading. Little Wandle approach that incorporates the explicit teaching of vocabulary and spelling will support the development of writing as well as reading.  [Phonics | Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics/) | 1,2 |
| Purchase of high-quality reading texts to support the teaching of reading comprehension strategies  We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in school and to access Literacy Hub resources, CMAT Steering and Network groups and CPD. | Reading comprehension strategies are high impact but low cost and enable pupils to learn a range of techniques to develop their comprehension and meaning of what is read.  [Reading Comprehension Stratgies | Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies) | 1,2,4 |
| Enhancement of our maths teaching and curriculum planning in line with DfE and EEF guidance and support  the implementation  of evidence-based  approaches.  We will fund teacher release time to embed key elements of guidance in school and to access training including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Building a reading culture, CMAT Steering and Network groups and other CPD | The DfE non-statutory guidance has been produced in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, drawing on evidence-based approaches:  [Maths\_guidance\_KS\_1\_and\_2.(publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017683/Maths_guidance_KS_1_and_2.pdf)  The EEF guidance is based on a range of the best available evidence:  [Improving Maths in the Early Years and KS1| Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/early-maths)  [Improving Maths in KS2 and KS3| Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/maths-ks-2-3) | 3,4 |
| Enhance the quality of social and emotional (SEL) learning.  Approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff. | Numerous large evidence reviews indicate that, when well implemented, SEL can have positive impacts on a range of outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers):  [EEF\_Social\_and\_Emotional\_Learning](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel?utm_source=/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&search_term=soc) | 1,3,4,5,6 |
| Embedding metacognition and self-related learning strategies into all areas of learning  Approaches will be embedded into routine educational practices and supported by professional development and training for staff. | Evidence suggests the use of metacognitive strategies’ – which get pupils to think about their own learning – can be worth the equivalent of an additional +7 months’ progress when used well. Explicit instruction in cognitive and metacognitive strategies across the curriculum through a series of steps can improve pupils’ learning.  [Metacognition and Self-regulated learning| Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/metacognition) | 1,3,4,5,6 |
| CPD for Pastoral Lead Youth Mental Health First Aid | Developing attainment with a wellbeing approach.  [Children’s Bureau and Optimus Education, recognises the outstanding work being done to promote mental health and wellbeing within school communities](https://www.ncb.org.uk/what-we-do/practice-and-programmes/building-integrated-child-centred-health-services/mental-1) | 1,3,4,5,6 |

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

Budgeted cost: £ *11,325.50*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Embedding communication and language approaches across the curriculum to improve spoken language skills, expressive vocabulary and early reading and comprehension skills.  We will purchase resources and fund ongoing teacher training and release time. | Oral language interventions emphasise the importance of spoken language and high quality verbal interaction in the classroom. They are inexpensive to implement and have a high impact on the development of reading and vocabulary acquisition.  [Oral language interventions | Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/oral-language-interventions/)  [Communication and Language | Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/early-years-toolkit/communication-and-language-approaches?utm_source=/education-evidence/early-years-toolkit/communication-and-language-approaches&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_searchh&search_term) | 1 |
| Additional phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged pupils who require further phonics support. | Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks:  [Phonics | Toolkit Strand | Education Endowment Foundation | EEF](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics/) | 1,2 |
| Targeted academic support in Maths utilising evidence based approaches outlined through the SEND Maths Hub. | Disadvantaged pupils with SEND have the greatest need for excellent teaching. Specific approaches to support  these pupils may include explicit instruction, cognitive and metacognitive strategies, scaffolding, flexible grouping.  [EEF Positive Learning Environment for those with SEND](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/send) | 1,2,3 |

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

Budgeted cost: £ 14,296.50

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Evidence that supports this approach | Challenge number(s) addressed |
| Staff training on Youth Mental Health First Aid  Supporting pupils’  social, emotional, and behavioural needs | Effective SEL can lead to learning gains of +4 months over the course of a year.  [Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel) | 1,3,4,5,6 |
| Supporting pupil’s ability to recognise and express emotions through activities with active forms of learning,  such as: role-play, discussion  and small group work | Evidence suggests that good self-awareness is associated with reduced difficulties in social functioning and fewer externalising problems.  [EEF\_Social\_and\_Emotional\_Learning](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel?utm_source=/education-evidence/guidance-reports/primary-sel&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&search_term=soc) | 1,3,4,5,6 |
| Supporting pupil outcomes through enrichment activities and life skill strategies | There is evidence to show that Arts and team building participation approaches can have a positive impact on academic outcomes in other areas of the curriculum and can build wider benefits such as more positive attitudes to learning and increased well-being. | 5,6 |
| Contingency fund for acute issues. | Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified. | All |

**Total budgeted cost: £62,758**

# Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

## Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

|  |
| --- |
| Reading continues to be a focus area of the SDP and this continues to grow in strength in terms of progress and development. The Little Wandle Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme is utilised for pupils in KS2 for Rapid Catch- up and has enabled pupils to make good progress over time and now only 5% of KS2 pupils receive this intervention compared to 31% last year 2.5% of these pupils are pupil premium. In addition, we utilise the Little Wandle Fluency Programme that pupils move onto following the completion of the phonics programme. Through the development of reading and fluency for reading, pupils’ engagement and confidence in reading for pleasure has also been enhanced.  The strategies for development included whole school systematic, synthetic phonics training for all staff through the Little Wandle INSET programme. This enabled staff to effectively plan and implement the phonics scheme into their year groups from the very start of the year through the analysis and placement of those from their previous year group and setting up the new Foundation pupils. Further training has been undertaken by TAs in their delivery of Little Wandle Keep up interventions to enable those who require further interventions throughout the school day to secure their understanding of phonics. Staff have further developed their understanding of assessment and planning next steps, which in turn has enabled pupils to make good progress. Last year 93% of all pupils in Year 1 passed the Phonics Screening Check and 100% by the end of KS1.  Another area for development identified is in Maths for the school. Generally, our internal assessments identified that disadvantaged pupils across all year groups predominantly achieve better in maths, which has been a key area of intervention through the Maths on the Move programme over the past two academic years and the majority of pupils were working at ARE by the end of the academic year. During the year, our Maths lead attended a working group to support those with SEND in maths through the L.E.A.D Hub. From this she was able to share and implement strategies to further enhance maths practice and adaptations for those with SEND, including how manipulatives are made available and utilised in school. This has strengthened pedagogical understanding for our most vulnerable students can access the curriculum.  As both Reading and Writing were key areas for further development and we have this year continued to strengthen and further embed the Phonics Scheme, Little Wandle to support the development of early reading and the application to writing. This was reflected in the KS1 Optional SATs results in July 2024 90% of the cohort meet the expected standards and 66% of Pupil Premium Pupils. In KS2 75% of pupil premium pupils met the expected standard for reading and 50% for writing. Writing continues to be an area for further development for the academic year. We have secured training with Alex Quigley ‘Closing the Writing Gap - Raising Standards’ and ‘Writing for Pleasure’ through the L.E.A.D Hub.  Last Academic year the Deputy Headteacher became an Adult Mental Health Lead alongside the Headteacher. Additionally, our Pastoral TA has become a Youth Mental Health First Aider alongside already offering Drawing and Talking and Lego therapy to many of our Pupil Premium pupils. This has enabled our pupils to improve social and emotional learning; recognition of and ways to manage their emotions and building relationships with their peers. This has been evident through the intervention reports and tracking from both pupils and parents.  Overall attendance in 2023/24 was at 96%, although below the school’s target of 97% it is 3% higher than the preceding year. During this academic year 2023/24, we continue to deploy our robust strategies implemented by our attendance champion to devise ways to raise attendance in line with government guidance. |

## 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 |
| Developing wellbeing and self regulation strategies for learning. | Discovery Coaching |

## Service pupil 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 pupil premium allocation last academic year? | N/A |
| What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils? | N/A |

# Further information (optional)

|  |
| --- |
| Our pupil premium strategy will be supplemented by additional activity that is not being funded by pupil premium or recovery premium. That will include:   * Offering a wide range of high-quality extracurricular activities to boost wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, and aspiration supported by external specialists. Activities will focus on building life skills such as confidence, resilience, and socialising during playtimes, lunchtimes and after school. Disadvantaged pupils 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 and utilised pupil and parent voice to support this.  We triangulated evidence from multiple sources of data including assessments, engagement in class book scrutiny, conversations with parents, students and teachers in order to identify the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils. We also used the EEF’s families of schools database to view the performance of disadvantaged pupils in schools similar to ours and used the case studies and researched approaches of high-performing disadvantaged pupils to learn how to further develop our provision.  We looked at a number of reports, studies and research papers about effective use of pupil premium, and undertook relevant training opportunities to review the impact of disadvantage on education outcomes and how to address challenges to learning presented by socio-economic disadvantage. We also looked at studies about the impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged pupils.  We used the [EEF’s implementation guidance](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/implementation) to help us develop our strategy, and additional case studies to diagnose specific pupil needs and work out which activities and approaches are likely to work in our school. We will continue to use it through the implementation of activities.   * We have put a robust evaluation framework in place for the duration of our three-year approach and will adjust our plan over time to secure better outcomes for pupils. |