

Pupil premium strategy statement – Leigh Academy Rainham

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	781
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	25.61%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2023/24-2025/26
Date this statement was published	July 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Mrs A Cramlington
Pupil premium lead	Mr S Blinkhorn/Miss E Bashford
Governor / Trustee lead	Hollie Allen

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£203,175
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£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>	N/A
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Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

It is the intention of Leigh Academy Rainham (LAR) to eliminate the attainment gaps between Pupil Premium and Non-Pupil Premium students.

At LAR we believe that given the right support, all children irrespective of their disadvantages can achieve extraordinary outcomes. LAR is committed to ensuring that every student eligible for the pupil premium is in no way disadvantaged when compared to their peers.

The Academy was established with the vision of “unlocking potential; making dreams a reality,” this is core to our beliefs and underpins our strategy.

We aim to:

- Draw on research, best practice and experience within the Academy and Trust to direct funding towards those practices which are most likely to maximise achievement and promote inclusivity.
- High quality teaching and learning is one of the key drivers for academic success, as such we are committed to high quality, strategic, and timely professional development. Through our coaching practices we ensure all staff are delivering a high quality, academic and internationally minded curriculum.
- Never confuse eligibility for pupil premium funding with low ability, and have a focus on ensuring students are stretched and challenged to attain the highest levels.
- Minimise potential access barriers to learning both within the academic curricular and co-curricular offers, and maximise progress, achievement and raise aspirations by exposing them to culturally diverse experiences.
- Further advantage the disadvantaged students within the academic curriculum and when appropriate give them more targeted support.
- We have a commitment to support all students in receipt of the pupil premium to achieve their expected academic targets with a push to perform beyond that.
- Support students to access curricular and co-curricular trips and visits, removing all possible barriers to ensure inclusivity.
- Recognise that not all disadvantaged students are in receipt of the pupil premium and the Academy reserves the right to reallocate funding to support any student or group of students that are assessed to be socially disadvantaged.
- Engage the parents/carers of disadvantaged students, ensuring they are aware of how they can work with the Academy to best support their children's achievements at LAR. Where necessary the Academy will offer academic support to parents to assist them in supporting their children's education.
- Ensure our parents and carers are regularly updated about the children's progress and how they might help drive learning forward.

- Regularly assess students progress, analyse, reflect and respond to data through the curriculum model, ensuring we respond to the needs of the students . Regularly analyse and evaluate attendance and behaviour data.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Literacy and Numeracy. A greater proportion of our pupil premium children have lower KS2 scores and lower reading ages and require a smooth transition. Some students arrive in year 7 below the national average for reading, writing and Maths.
2	Attendance and Punctuality – A greater proportion of pupil premium children require additional support to maintain good attendance and to also ensure they come to school on time.
3	Parental support, some students do not have the same support at home as their peers. This can be financial, emotional, and academic.
4	Behaviour and social communication issues – There are some pupil premium students who do not have an adequate understanding of behavioural and social boundaries, resulting in sanctions and needing more pastoral support than other student groups.
5	Accessing high quality co-curricular activities, due to cost, transport and availability.
6	Students do not, on the whole, have low aspirations but they have less idea of how to get to their desired end point.

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
Students attain in line as their peers.	Termly reports, milestone grades, and a minimal attainment gap.

Attendance to be >98%.	Termly attendance figures.
Students are well equipped for learning.	All students have access to the necessary resources and support.
Students to be fully engaged with all academy activities.	Increase the number of Year 7, and maintain the high proportion of Year 8 students taking part in co-curricular activities over the year.
Improve students' aspirations through culturally diverse experiences.	All students have been involved in co-curricular trips and visits.
Improve students' understanding of how they achieve their career goals.	All students can engage with the UniFrog platform throughout their curriculum.

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: £132,063

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Timely feedback from teachers will align student's effort and activity with a successful outcome.	Research by the Educational Endowment Foundation shows that providing effective feedback redirects and refocuses the student's actions, raises their expectations and has the most positive impact on student's progress.	1 and 2
Accelerated reading scheme. Disadvantaged students to be directed by English teaching staff to participate.	Research by The Educational Endowment Foundation shows that reading comprehension strategies are highly effective.	1 and 2

Training through high quality IB specific CPD	Research from the Educational Endowment Fund shows that continued investment and engagement in CPD, leads to better student outcomes	1 and 6
Recruitment of highly effective teachers	Research from the Educational Endowment Fund shows that highly effective teaching is crucial to raising attainment of all students including PP.	1 to 6

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

Budgeted cost: £44,699

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Students have access to episodic 1-1 mentoring sessions. Mentoring has a strong focus on reviewing academic progress and identifying potential barriers to other learning. There is also a focus on metacognition skills and self regulation strategies to support students. Any areas of weakness are identified and SMART targets for improvement are set and monitored.	Research by the Educational Endowment Foundation shows that metacognition and self-regulation strategies form part of the fabric of successful learning, having a significant impact on pupil's academic performance. Disadvantaged pupils are less likely to use these techniques and, therefore, gain the most benefit from their use.	1,2,3 and 5
Homework club which provides a suitable space and support.	Research by the Educational Endowment Foundation shows that such support prevents homework deadlines being missed and falling behind with workload.	1 and 2
Maths Progress Clinic. Reading and Handwriting interventions. PP students to be a priority group when picking students for small group intervention.	Research by the Educational Endowment Foundation shows that small grouped, expert led intervention can be highly effective in closing the attainment gap.	1 and 2

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

Budgeted cost: £18,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To reward exceptional attendance at termly certification assemblies and link to college competition awards. Weekly attendance % for Forms and College to be published on prominent notice boards. Pastoral team liaison with parents to support attendance.	When pupils do not attend school regularly enough this is shown to affect their learning and academic progress.	3
Counselling	Access to the school counsellor provides much needed support to vulnerable students.	2 and 4
Co-curricular activities including Music lessons, Sports, University visits, Cultural trips and Activity trips.	Participation in extra-curricular activities provides personal enrichment and achievement. It promotes personal development and skills whilst also raising self esteem. Higher aspirations are encouraged within a sense of community and enjoyment.	5
ICT and learning resources	Provision of Chromebooks and equipment enables better quality work in lessons and performance in exams.	1,2 and 5
Unifrog Platform	Engaging in the platform and the curriculum for careers will allow students to gain a sense of direction, parents and carers have also been invited to access the platform to support careers and destination conversations at home. Families are also able	6

	to access the tools available which include looking for jobs and CV writing support.	
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Total budgeted cost: £203,175

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

Intended outcome	Review
<i>Students attain as highly as their peers.</i>	<p>PP students attained broadly in line with their peers MYP subject grades.</p> <p>Average MYP grade difference in:</p> <p>Maths -0.75</p> <p>English -0.41</p> <p>Science -0.60</p> <p>Languages -0.58</p> <p>History -0.60</p> <p>Geography -0.66</p> <p>PP students received significant support for the Ebacc subjects including tutoring from academy staff, progress interventions and TA support where appropriate. The progress that the students made from this additional support has been significant with the overall residual across all subjects to their peers being -0.54. National average data reports that PP students compared to their Non-PP peers, where PP students achieved over half a grade less than expected. Therefore, our progress is above the national average (national data reports -0.73).</p>
<i>Students are well equipped for learning.</i>	<p>All students were fully equipped for learning, including a Chromebook. Where needed the PP funding was used to support PP students with the purchasing of equipment such as scientific calculators, compulsory stationery and subject specific revision guides. This ensured no student had issues with access to education.</p>

	<p>This year we have been guided by good practice of spending PP funding by the EEF. This has meant we have removed the automatic purchasing of blazers for students, as it is not an effective use of funding. However, we will still support families who are currently experiencing financial hardship. To ensure students have access to correct and full uniform in our mission to foster a culture of inclusivity and belonging.</p>															
<i>Attendance to be >98%</i>	<p>Attendance was 94.3% for non-PP and 90.9% for PP students. The national average for 2025 academic year was 91.5%. We have some work to improve our non-PP attendance, with the work of our FLO we are confident attendance of our non-PP students will increase next year.</p>															
<i>Students to be fully engaged with all academy activities.</i>	<table><tr><td></td><td>Non-PP % attendance</td><td>PP % attendance</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 7</td><td>55.31</td><td>46.29</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 8</td><td>59.56</td><td>54.37</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 9</td><td>60.32</td><td>43.59</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 10</td><td>44.01</td><td>51.74</td></tr></table> <p>Over the course of the academic year many PP students accessed co-curricular clubs. Transport was the issue for the lack of engagement. The co-curricular offer of the academy is extensive, free, and open to all. The academy invested significantly in equipment for further expansion of the programme in the coming year.</p>		Non-PP % attendance	PP % attendance	Yr 7	55.31	46.29	Yr 8	59.56	54.37	Yr 9	60.32	43.59	Yr 10	44.01	51.74
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<i>Improve students' aspirations through culturally diverse experiences.</i>	<p>Every PP student had full access to curriculum visits and they engaged in these opportunities. We offer contributions to all enrichment visits to support all PP families. Trips where a whole cohort has been invited, we will ensure all PP students are able to access this trip in our mission to foster a culture of inclusivity and belonging.</p> <p>The academy also invested in peripatetic music lessons, which were made available for some PP students at no cost. These offers gained in popularity across the year. They were also prioritised for extra assemblies from Cambridge University and others.</p>															

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
Music Tuition	Music Dynamics Medway
Sparx	Sparx Maths
Accelerated Reader	Renaissance
Unifrog	Unifrog Education Ltd
Sparx	Sparx Science
Sparx	Sparx English
Exampro	AQA / Exampro
Historical Association	The Historical Association (UK charity and membership organisation)
KnowItAll Ninja	KnowItAll Ninja Ltd
Languagenut	Languagenut (by Learning Labs Ltd)
Seneca Premium	Seneca Learning Ltd
The PE Classroom	The PE Classroom Ltd