

PUPIL PREMIUM REPORT TO PARENTS / CARERS

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What is Pupil Premium?

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional 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 by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the students who need it most.

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with students who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for students who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.

Beccles Free School is eligible for Pupil Premium funding. We opened in September 2012 and only received our first Pupil Premium funding in February 2013.

Leadership of Pupil Premium in School:

The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), Mrs Govender, is also the Inclusion Leader (SENCO) for the school. Mrs Govender is the member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for the impact of the Pupil Premium. A member of the governing body, Mrs Nicholson is the governor responsible for monitoring the impact of the Pupil Premium funding from a governance perspective.

Allocation of Pupil Premium 2012-13:

Our total Pupil Premium funding for 2012-13 (from February 2013) was £16 360 It should be noted that as our roll has been increasing over time, this figure is being adjusted regularly to account for new students joining us.

We have allocated the funding in three 'tranches':

- Tranche 1 was delegated to Subject Leaders in order to boost subject specific and inclusion resources for Pupil Premium students in all areas of the curriculum;

- Tranche 2 was spent on the introduction of targeted intervention programmes to boost progress and achievement for Pupil Premium students (examples of interventions: investment in Lexia software, guided reading programmes, small group literacy and numeracy provision, times table groups, therapeutic enrichment sessions, etc.);
- Tranche 3 is currently being spent on a variety of projects specifically targeted at the small number of Pupil Premium students who, despite interventions earlier in the year, have not made the expected progress.

Impact of the Funding:

Objective 1: To reduce barriers to learning, close the attainment gap and improve student's levels of attendance, engagement, attainment and progress

1 Staff training

All teaching and support staff received CPD sessions on improving Quality First Teaching. Sessions were based around meeting the additional needs of students on the Inclusion register through effective differentiation.

2 Purchase of specialist curriculum resources

Purchase of support equipment such as writing slopes, specialist pens, scientific calculators, Alpha to Omega Resource Pack, Smart Skill's activity books, specialist apparatus for scientific experiments, musical instruments, specialist recording equipment, specialist hand tools, mini whiteboards and pens, levelling placemats and display posters, literacy mats and specialist PE equipment for health and fitness.

3 Homework Support

40% of PP students needed additional support with homework as there they had no access to the internet at home. Lunch time homework club was set up and staffed to provide opportunities for students to complete homework in school.

4 Behaviour for Learning Support

50% of PP students needed additional support in developing their independent learning skills so that they could manage their own learning behaviours in lessons. The year was divided into 6- weekly therapeutic sessions where behaviour outreach programme was designed and facilitated in school by external behavioural specialists.

5 Quality of presentation including handwriting

50% of PP students who displayed poor handwriting and presentation skills during the Autumn Term participated in a 12 week 'Presentation Matters' workshop. Specialist equipment and resources such as writing slopes and specialist pens were also purchased to support the improvement.

6 Lexia and small group literacy intervention

Lexia software was purchased and installed on a dedicated set of laptops. The

programme supported 100% of PP students in improving their literacy and reading skills through one to one and small group intervention sessions. Parents and students were trained on the use of the programme to be used at home.

7 Guided Reading

55% of PP students received 1-1 guided reading sessions with the target of increasing their reading skills by a minimum of 6 months over two terms.

8 MyMaths and small group numeracy intervention

MyMaths software was purchased and installed on a dedicated set of laptops. The programme supported 100% of PP students in improving their numeracy skills through one to one and small group intervention sessions. Parents and students were trained on the use of the programme to be used at home.

9 Times table support

70% of PP needed additional support with their times tables. They all participated in a 12 week programme during Tutor time, designed and led by an external Maths tutor

10 1 – 1 Maths intervention

65% of PP students who displayed weak numeracy skills during the Autumn term participated in a 12 week 'Maths' workshop facilitated by an external Maths specialist Tutor. Specialist equipment and resources such as specialist pens, scientific calculators were also purchased to support the improvement.

11 Therapeutic Support: Building self-esteem and confidence sessions

70% of PP students needed additional support in developing their self-esteem and increasing their confidence levels so that as to be more active participants in their learning. They all participated in two 8-week therapeutic intervention programme facilitated by a trained counsellor.

Objective 2: To provide access to extra-curricular provision

1. Bespoke Financial Assistance:

60% of PP students received bespoke financial assistance for trips, enrichment activities, uniform and peripatetic music lessons.

2. PSHE Days and Enterprise/Enrichment Activities

100% of PP students participated in additional co-curricular and extra-curricular activities throughout the year. These activities included team building exercises and student leadership residential led by external providers.