



**Oak Tree  
School**

# Pupil Premium Policy

<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>ACE ED 21 (Version 2)</b>
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<b>Owner</b>	<b>Head teacher</b>

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## Document History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Comments/amendments</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.0	2014 Issue	Mike Deacy	June 2014
2.0	2016 Issue	Mike Deacy	February 2016
3.0	2017	Mike Deacy	May 2017

## Our School

Oak Tree School Cornwall is a special school positioned near the city of Truro in Cornwall. The school provides full-time specialist co-education for children and young people aged 8 to 15 who experience social, emotional, communication difficulties and associated challenging behaviours. These children and young people often cannot cope, function or achieve within a mainstream environment. The aim is to provide a structured, nurturing approach, with pupils accessing a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum to meet their significant needs.

## Values

Oak Tree School Cornwall is committed to raising achievement and enabling all pupils to recognise and fulfil their potential, and support them through a personalised, engaging and relevant curriculum. We address a complex range of barriers to learning including conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiance disorder and a range of autistic spectrum disorders.

Our priorities are to develop and improve the core knowledge and skills required to make a manageable and successful transition to work, college and adult life. We will provide a structured and supportive environment where our C&YP feel safe enough to take responsibility for their actions. Pupils will be encouraged and taught to make positive choices and decisions and therefore present and display socially acceptable behaviours.

In the financial year 2014-2015 we received no Pupil Premium funding. Next financial year 2015-2016 we have no funding presently identified. Cornwall LA does not pay pupil premium to commissioned independent specialist providers.

The DfE has given us the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs.

**'It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.'**

However, we are accountable for the use of this additional funding.

## The Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools on the basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). The Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

The Pupil Premium also provides funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and the children of service personnel.

The Pupil Premium was initially introduced in April 2011 and is now worth £900 per eligible pupil. Children of service personnel receive a lower amount of £250.

## Purpose of the Pupil Premium Policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline how we will ensure that any Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level. They capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

We are aware that under The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, Schedule 4 there is specified information which has to be published on a school's website.

**Section 9 of this regulation requires schools to publish 'The amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated'.**

Through this policy we shall publish the above information. In meeting this requirement we will observe our continuing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, so that individuals or groups of individuals, including children funded through the Service Premium cannot be identified.

## How we will make decisions regarding the use of Pupil Premium

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose.
- Use the latest evidence based research<sup>1</sup> on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.
- Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference
- Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children
- Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.
- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium by the school

- Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not an homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account
  - Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way
  - Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year
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1 Such as The Sutton Trust - Education Endowment Foundation, Teaching and Learning Toolkit <http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/> which is regularly updated & The Institute of Effective Education at University of York, <https://www.york.ac.uk/iee/>, which researches 'what works' in teaching and learning and promotes the use of evidence in education policy and practice. The two Ofsted reports – 'Pupil Premium', 20th September 2012, <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium> and the latest 11th February 2013, 'The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement' [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement) are examples of the research evidence and case studies of best practice which we use.

## Development of the policy

This policy has been developed in consultation with our pupils, staff and parents and carers. It is part of our commitment to reducing inequalities in outcomes and promoting the inclusive nature of the work we do at our school.

In developing this policy we have taken into account our statutory responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 requires us as a public organisation to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and two specific duties. Further information is available in our school's Equality Single Equality Scheme. The overlap with our Equality Scheme is in relation to how we are meeting the needs of our pupils who are covered under the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act. Some of these pupils, especially minority ethnic, English as an additional language, Special Educational Needs and pupils with disabilities can suffer from higher rates of disadvantage and therefore can have higher rates of eligibility for FSM. Where this is the case, we shall take these additional needs into account.

When developing this Pupil Premium Policy, we have also taken into account the Ofsted Inspection Framework 2012, which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on narrowing gaps in standards. We also note that Ofsted has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs.

## Links to other policies and Documentation

Although this policy is the key document outlining our approach to narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement for our disadvantaged pupils, we will, however ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 for other pupils for whom narrowing the gap remains an issue but are not covered by the Pupil Premium, are also included in key documents such as our school development plan, self- evaluation review, the school prospectus, school website and newsletters.

There will also be references to disadvantaged pupils in our behaviour, admissions, SEN and anti-bullying policies, as well as minutes of meetings the whole staff, the senior leadership team and school council.

## Roles and responsibilities

We expect all members of our school community to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils.

## The Head and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Senior Teacher of the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. They will also ensure that staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment. Through performance management arrangements, they will make sure narrowing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the school.

It will be the responsibility of the Head to include the following information in the annual report for Acorn Care's Central Team:

- the progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils
- an outline of the provision that has been made since the last annual report
- an evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support

Mike Deacy (Headteacher) has day to day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this policy and monitoring outcomes. He has expert and informed knowledge of evidence based research of 'what works' and 'how' this works in narrowing the gaps. He knows how to customise this research to fit the needs of our pupils and school context.

Mike Deacy (Headteacher) will also monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on an annual basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. He will also check to see that it is providing value for money.

## **Teaching and Support Staff will**

- maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability'
- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained
- support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind
- keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement

We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

## **Monitoring and reviewing the policy**

Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on a termly basis to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration the increased funding that becomes available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake on-going evaluations of the strategies we are using, such as that outlined in The DIY Evaluation Guide provided by the Education Endowment Foundation<sup>2</sup>. Our annual review will involve staff, pupils and parents and carers.

## **Disseminating the policy**

This Pupil Premium policy along with the details of actions will be published:

- on our website (with paper copies available on request in the school office)
- in the staff handbook and as part of induction for new staff
- included in the termly newsletters for parents and carers
- as a summary in the school brochure

We will also use other methods and occasions such as parents' evenings and assemblies, as appropriate to share information about the Pupil Premium.

## Appeals procedure

Any appeals against this policy can be made through the school's complaints procedure.

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[http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/uploads/pdf/EEF\\_DIY\\_Evaluation\\_Guide\\_\(2013\).pdf](http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/uploads/pdf/EEF_DIY_Evaluation_Guide_(2013).pdf)  
January 2013.

## Use of the pupil premium in our school and impact

In this section we will outline how we will use the Pupil Premium in our school and the impact this will have on outcomes for our eligible pupils.

### Pupil premium funding

<b>S.Fp</b>
<b>O.P</b>
<b>K.G</b>
<b>B.L</b>
<b>H.W</b>
<b>C.J</b>

### **Analysis of the gaps and what we are going to do to narrow the gaps**

The Pupil Premium funding will be used to both enrich the curriculum for learners at Oak Tree School as well as providing alternative targeted support for those pupils/students who require additional levels of intervention'. Our pupils often present with low self-esteem and low confidence. Many pupils find it a challenge to engage in teaching and learning in a formal setting. To close the gaps we offer enrichment provision. Identified pupils have the following provision...

**S.Fp**                    **Attend Footsteps of Discovery over the past 12 weeks. S.Fp attends this weekly.**

**O.P**                    **Attend Footsteps of Discovery over the past 12 weeks. S.Fp attends this weekly.**

**K.G**                    **Work Experience Placement set up for catering at a local hotel in St Ives.**

**B.L**                    **Administered Dyslexia Screening showing a need for literacy support. JH has brought in 'Write from the Start'.**

**H.W**                    **Badger School. H.W has engaged with this on weekly basis since March 2017. He's had opportunities to engage with 'Forest Skills' activities.**

**C.J**                    **Attends weekly session at Woodlands on a Monday.**

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## Evaluation of impact

<b>S.Fp</b>	<b>Conversation with teacher R.G. R.G feels this has a positive impact on S.Fp in terms of his confidence and ability to follow instructions in school. S.Fp now has a 90% plus behaviour scores.</b>
<b>O.P</b>	<b>Pupil feels this has improved his team building skills and self-esteem, which has allowed him to improved confidence in school.</b>
<b>K.J.</b>	<b>JH arranged initial visit. Catering equipment will be purchased to support this should K.G regularly attend. We would hope this would improve K.Gs attendance.</b>
<b>H.W</b>	<b>A.H has seen a positive impact in terms of H.W's socialization skills. This has also had a beneficial impact at home in terms of Respite Care.</b>
<b>C.J</b>	<b>A.H feels this has a positive impact on C.J's life Skills and has raised his self-esteem. This gas a positive effect on his engagement within school.</b>
<b>B.L</b>	<b>Literacy Intervention: Expect to see an impact by the end of the summer term in terms of reading, spelling and comprehension assessments.</b>