



Pupil Premium Strategy Statement 2025 - 2026

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium for the 2025 to 2026 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	Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard
Number of pupils in school	420 (not inc Nursery)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	16.4%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	September 2024 / September 2026
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2026
Statement authorised by	Julie Forsythe
Pupil premium lead	Emma Newton
Governor / Trustee lead	Tunji Abimbola

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£101,515
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.	£101,515



Statement of intent

At Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard (LACO), we believe that every pupil can and will make progress regardless of their background; deprivation should never be a barrier to their learning. We set highly and appropriately challenging targets for every single child. All of our pupils are valued, challenged and supported to make sustained academic and personal progress whilst with us at LACO.

We intend that all pupils are in school, everyday, in order to receive high quality teaching and learning. Children's anxiety and other difficulties parents face in getting children into school, should not be a barrier for disadvantaged pupils. We believe in removing as many of these difficulties as possible for parents as part of our holistic approach to ensure we are equipping pupils socially, emotionally and academically for their next steps in education and beyond.

We strive to use the Pupil Premium to address gaps in learning for those disadvantaged pupils who continue to be affected by lost learning during the pandemic, and who, for other reasons, are behind in their Reading, Writing and Maths so that the building blocks needed to learn across all other curriculum areas are in place, leading to a successful primary education for these pupils.

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Persistent absence for disadvantaged children, although much lower than the national, is higher than for non-disadvantaged pupils. This results in lost learning and gaps in knowledge and understanding.
2	Access to out of school experiences and co-curricular activities for disadvantaged pupils.
3	Lack of regular reading opportunities in some home environments needed to increase fluency and comprehension in order to access the entire curriculum.
4	Lack of regular opportunities in some home environments and participation in practising times tables and basic number skills at home are needed to support pupils with their understanding of other mathematical concepts, such as fractions.
5	Missed learning and socialisation opportunities in school for disadvantaged pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 for current Year 5 pupils need to provide them with secure foundations.
6	Growing number of children are affected by anxiety and mental health issues with an impact on their wellbeing, willingness to attend school and ability to engage in their learning. Long waiting lists to receive external professional mental health support.



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
Persistent absence of disadvantaged children is significantly reduced, ensuring that pupils are regularly in school, accessing learning. PA all last year - 5.5% PA of PPG - 12.5%	Reduce the percentage of disadvantaged pupils with persistent absence so that it is more in line with non-disadvantaged pupils
Access to out of school experiences and extra-curricular activities for disadvantaged pupils	At least 63% of disadvantaged children access at least 1 activity club during the course of the year. Up from 60% the year before. All disadvantaged pupils having the opportunity to take part in co-curricular activities including workshops, off-site visits and residential trips. Provision for a young carers forest school session to continue 63.01% PPG children attended an extra curricular club in 24/25
Pupil gaps in maths are significantly reduced and early maths skills are acquired.	Disadvantaged children have accessed targeted interventions that have allowed for gaps to be addressed and progress made in maths.
Children experience regular reading opportunities through their time in school; Teaching Assistants are equipped to deliver high quality phonics and reading interventions.	Reading fluency, comprehension and a love of reading for disadvantaged pupils has increased, allowing children to have greater access and understanding of the wider curriculum. Teaching Assistants deliver high quality phonics and reading interventions that have seen pupils make significant progress.
Disadvantaged children in Year 5 are supported to access and progress successfully through the Year 5 curriculum; they are also able to interact socially in an appropriate way.	All disadvantaged children in Year 5 have made significant personal progress in their academic and social skills by the end of Year 5.



To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils in our school, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.	<p>Children across the whole school have quick access to a professional counsellor placed within the school to ensure that their mental health needs are met or signposted to relevant professionals</p> <p>Children know that they are able to talk to someone in the school about worries.</p> <p>Children's wellbeing improves allowing them to better enjoy school and learning.</p> <p>Children have access to quiet, safe spaces providing them for opportunities for self-regulation and reflection.</p>
--	---

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)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
CPD for Teachers and Teaching Assistants around Adaptive Practices and Inclusion to enhance professional capability in adaptation and inclusion to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all pupils	The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights that teacher quality is the single most important factor affecting student learning. Effective CPD is the mechanism for improving this quality. High-quality professional development has been shown to have a significant effect on teaching effectiveness. Adaptive practices and inclusion ensure equitable learning opportunities for all pupils by shifting the focus from treating everyone the same (equality) to providing every pupil with the specific support they need to achieve the same high standards (equity). This approach maintains high expectations for all learners while dynamically removing the individual barriers they face.	1,2,3,4,5,6



CPD for Teachers and TAs relating to marking and feedback.	EEF Toolkit for marking and feedback key findings include impact of high quality marking and feedback to be high. Improving the quality of feedback is consistently found to have a high impact on learning outcomes. The EEF reports an average impact equivalent to up to eight additional months' progress for students over the course of a year.	4
Implementation of Forest School Training, including resources	The impact of collaborative approaches on learning is consistently positive, with pupils making an additional 5 months' progress, on average, over the course of an academic year. Most of the positive approaches include the promotion of talk and interaction between learners. (EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit) Peer tutoring approaches have been shown to have a positive impact on learning, with an average positive effect equivalent to approximately five additional months' progress within one academic year. (EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit)	1,2,5,6 £6000
CPD for teachers and teaching assistants to support pupils effectively within interventions and in the classroom for all pupils.	The high average impact hides a large variation between the different approaches to teaching assistant deployment. Targeted deployment, where teaching assistants are trained to deliver an intervention to small groups or individuals has a higher impact.(EEF Teaching and Learning Toolkit)	3,4,5,6
The use of Accelerated Reader as a tool to improve fluency and comprehension at the right level.	Fluent reading supports comprehension because pupils' cognitive resources are freed from focusing on word recognition and can be redirected towards comprehending the text. Rapid provision of support is important, but it is critical to ensure it is the right support. Diagnostic assessment can be used to inform professional judgement about the best next steps. Diagnostic assessment makes teaching more efficient by ensuring that effort is not wasted on rehearsing skills or content that a pupil already knows well. (EEF Guidance reports)	3,4,5 £3000

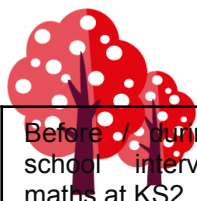


<p>Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM)</p>	<p>Cherry Orchard</p> <p>To continue driving inclusive practices focusing on creating learning environments where every pupil feels valued, supported and able to thrive. The IQM provides schools with a framework to evaluate, measure, and continuously improve inclusive practices.</p>	<p>2,5,6</p>	<p>e: info@cherryorchard.latrust.org.uk w: leighacademycherryorchard.org.uk</p> <p>Principal: Mrs Julie Forsythe</p>
-------------------------------------	--	--------------	--

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

Budgeted cost: £30000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Before / during / after school interventions in phonics and / or reading at KS1 and KS2</p>	<p>Phonics is a 'high impact' activity with Teaching Assistant led interventions being 'moderate' interventions (EEF Teacher Toolkit); Professional development should be used to raise the quality of practitioners' knowledge of mathematics, of children's mathematical development, and of effective mathematical pedagogy.(EEF Guidance Reports)</p> <p>The key is to ensure that learning in interventions is consistent with, and extends, work inside the classroom and that pupils understand the links between them. (EEF Guidance Reports)</p>	<p>3,4,5,6</p>
<p>Lexia online intervention for KS1 & KS2 pupils.</p>	<p>Research has identified remedial and tutorial use of technology as being particularly practical for lower attaining pupils, those with special educational needs or those from disadvantaged backgrounds in providing intensive support to enable them to catch up with their peers. Technology can be particularly useful in personalising learning to match pupils' individual abilities and needs given the potential for such programmes to adapt and focus on the child's learning needs. (EEF)</p>	<p>3,4,5,6</p>



Cherry Orchard

Before / during / after
school interventions in
maths at KS2

Seize chances to reinforce mathematical vocabulary. Create opportunities for extended discussion of mathematical ideas with children. Teaching builds on what children already know; It is important to assess what children do, and do not, know in order to extend learning for all children. (Interventions are addressing gaps identified through teaching); (EEF Guidance Reports).

Professional development should be used to raise the quality of practitioners' knowledge of mathematics, of children's mathematical development, and of effective mathematical pedagogy. (EEF Guidance Reports)

4,5,6
e-trust@cherryorchard.latrust.org.uk
w: leighacademycherryorchard.org.uk
Principal: Mrs Julie Forsyth

Accelerated Reader (AR)

The core strength of AR is its ability to match pupils with texts at an appropriate challenge level, which is known as their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). AR is successful due to effectively integrating three powerful drivers of reading growth: personalisation, motivation, and data-driven accountability.

3

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

Budgeted cost: £11000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Welcome member of staff on school gate to provide pastoral support for anxious children to improve attendance and punctuality of identified students	Evidence has highlighted that not only is there a negative association between attendance rates and attainment, but that the association is particularly strong compared to all other factors introduced. (Being Present, the Power of Attendance and Stability for Pupil Premium Pupils; NFER; 2019)	1,6
40 second connection	NHS England found that 40 seconds extra at the bedside can improve patient outcomes. Use this strategy to help tackle attendance challenges.	1,2,3,4,5,6
Minibus for transport of pupils to various co and extracurricular events	Evidence suggests that participating in extracurricular activities has positive effects on students' success. More than	2,6



	80% of youth participate in extracurricular activities (Fredricks, 2011, p. 379). Being involved in extracurricular activities offers important opportunities for adolescent development (Blomfield & Barber, 2009), such as peer relations, appropriate social conduct, and basic skills for academic achievement (Metsäpelto & Pulkkinen, 2012).	
Support for disadvantaged students to attend after school clubs to increase attendance	Evidence has highlighted that not only is there a negative association between attendance rates and attainment, but that the association is particularly strong compared to all other factors introduced. (Being Present, the Power of Attendance and Stability for Pupil Premium Pupils; NFER; 2019)	1,2,6
Part-fund costs for pupils in receipt of pupil premium for extra curricular activities and co-curricular opportunities Fully funded iRock music lessons and specialist Spanish teacher	A large body of research exists that addresses the role of extra-curricular activities on a range of cognitive and noncognitive outcomes. (An Unequal Playing Field: Extra-Curricular Activities, Soft Skills and Social Mobility; Social Mobility Commission; 2019)	2, 6
22-24 - Employment of a Place2Be school counsellor to be able to meet the growing mental health needs within the school community.	The average impact of successful SEL interventions is an additional four months' progress over the course of a year. Alongside academic outcomes, SEL interventions have an identifiable and valuable impact on attitudes to learning and social relationships in school. (EEF Toolkit)	6
Create a quiet area outside to be used during breaktime, lunchtime and outdoor learning activities to support pupils needing space for socialisation, self-regulation and reflection.	A number of studies suggest that improving the self-regulation skills of children in the early years is likely to have a lasting positive impact on later learning at school, and also have a positive impact on wider outcomes such as behaviour and persistence. Many of the pupils in school have missed out on this in EYFS due to Covid 19 and the effects are still being felt. (EEF guidance).	5, 6
run to support the social and emotional needs, allowing disadvantaged pupils to make academic progress in KS1 and KS2	Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools reviews the best available research to offer school leaders six practical recommendations to support good SEL for all children. It stresses this is especially important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and other vulnerable groups, who, on average, have weaker SEL skills at all ages than their better-off classmates. Evidence from the EEF's Teaching and Learning Toolkit suggests that effective SEL can lead to learning gains of +4 months over the course of a year.	3,4,5

Total budgeted cost: £ 101,515



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 2024 to 2025

In 2025 the achievement of disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2 SATs was very pleasing. The percentage of KS2 disadvantaged pupils achieving age expected compares favourably with national data for disadvantaged pupils.

At LACO disadvantaged pupils achieved:

Combined - 67% age expected (compared with 47% nationally)

reading - 75% age expected (compared with 63%% nationally)

maths - 75% age expected (compared with 61% nationally)

writing - 67% age expected (compared with 59% nationally)

In this cohort there were 12 children entitled to PPG, three of these children have SEN, including two children with EHCPs and part of our SRP. The three children with SEN were not expected to reach age expected. If we remove these SEN children then the percentage increases as follows:

Combined - 89% age expected

reading - 89% age expected

maths - 89% age expected

writing - 89% age expected

Subject	22/23 (% without SEN)	23/24 (% without SEN)	24/25 (% without SEN)
Combined	60 (80)	100 (100)	67 (89)
Reading	60 (80)	100 (100)	75 (89)
Writing	73 (100)	100 (100)	67 (89)
Maths	80 (100)	100 (100)	75 (89)

Teaching has been supported through the provision of National College and National Online Safety resources. This has been used by subject leads and staff to further develop expertise. Training has been given in person by specialist subject and curriculum advisors for core and foundation subjects to ensure good subject knowledge and enhanced pedagogical skills for both teachers and teaching assistants. Read Write Inc and Fresh Start training has been given to teachers and teaching assistants to support pupils with the acquisition of phonics and writing skills. We have also provided specialised Lexia training to support those pupils not accessing the RWI programme successfully. A librarian was employed to ensure the successful setting up



of an extensive range of books across the school, he promoted his love of reading and ran a reading club. Accelerated Reader has allowed pupils to access high quality texts that are at the correct level for developing reading fluency and language acquisition. This tool has allowed teachers to assess regularly and to monitor engagement and progression in reading. As well as this, to promote a love of reading, selected pupils took home monthly book packages, which they could keep, as part of the BookTrust Letterbox Club.

During this academic year, targeted academic support has been given through the provision of interventions before and after school, CPD to support teaching assistants delivery of interventions, and a nurture group to allow disadvantaged pupils to receive social and emotional support, ensuring that they can access the curriculum and make progress. We have also employed a teacher to work with disadvantaged pupils in small groups and on a 1:1 basis one day a week. This has been beneficial to these pupils and will continue in 24-25 to allow for momentum of impact of this provision to continue. The catch up interventions that were run after school targeted disadvantaged pupils within each year group. Teachers, support staff, SLT and FLO worked with parents to encourage the attendance of these pupils, speaking positively of the impact on learning that they were seeing in lessons.

Last year, the use of the minibus supported all pupils, including our disadvantaged pupils in co-curricular activities. 20 disadvantaged families took advantage of the financial support of extra and co-curricular trips, including after school clubs, visits to the theatre, zoo, local school farm and a residential visit. The minibus was regularly used to transport disadvantaged pupils to a number of extra-curricular opportunities and events such as art exhibitions and sporting tournaments.

Overall attendance data for disadvantaged pupils for 23/24 was 94.9%. We have improved this further in 24/25 to 95% This compares very favourably to national data for disadvantaged pupils (across all key stages) which was 88.9%.

There has been a significant decrease in the number of disadvantaged pupils falling into persistent absence (PA) from 24.7% in 2021/22 to 18.9% in 2022/23 and even further to 11.3% in 2023/24

We now have a number of trained members of staff available to drive the minibus in the mornings to collect pupils who are persistently absent. We also employ a key member of the pastoral team to support and liaise with disadvantaged families around attendance. This saw significant impact during 23- 24 and as such has continued to form a key part of our provision to ensure that the attendance of our disadvantaged pupils continues to increase, allowing for greater progress to be made.

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
School Counsellor	Counselling provider £8360
Languages teacher	Lingotots £18360
Music teacher	iRock £14325
Speech and Language Therapy	Words First £10560
Educational Psychology Services	Red'n'White Stuff £6000

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



Leigh Academy

Further information (optional)
Cherry Orchard

Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard

Castle Hill, Ebbsfleet Valley, Kent DA10 1AD
t: 01322 242011

e: info@cherryorchard.latrust.org.uk
w: leighacademycherryorchard.org.uk

Principal: Mrs Julie Forsythe

--