



Ribblesdale School

Disadvantaged Pupils Policy

Policy Approved: Spring 2026

Review Date: Spring 2027

Disadvantaged Pupils Policy

Overarching Principles

- At Ribblesdale School, all members of staff and governors accept responsibility for those pupils recognised as 'disadvantaged' and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs.
- Every child under the care of this policy is valued, respected and entitled to develop to his/her full potential, irrespective of disadvantage.

Background to the Pupil Premium

Introduced in April 2011, the Pupil Premium is a government initiative that provides additional funding aimed at pupils from deprived backgrounds. Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The Pupil Premium provides support to these pupils to accelerate their progress and help them to reach their potential.

The government has used pupils entitled to free school meals and those who are looked after as an indicator for deprivation. A fixed amount of money is allocated per pupil. The total sum given is based on the number of pupils registered for free school meals (including anyone who has been on the FSM register in the last six years) and who are looked after by the local authority. A premium has also been introduced for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces or are adopted from care. This service premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these pupils.

Overall Objectives:

- Our school will ensure that the Pupil Premium funding reaches the groups of pupils for whom it was intended and that it makes a significant impact on their education and lives.
- The Pupil Premium will be used to provide additional educational support to improve progress and raise achievement for these pupils.
- The funding will be used to narrow and close the gap between the achievement of these pupils and their peers.
- The school will use the additional funding to address any underlying inequalities between children eligible for Pupil Premium and others.

How we will ensure effective use of the Pupil Premium

- The Pupil Premium will be clearly identifiable within the budget.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the governors, senior leadership team, Equalities Ambassador and other staff, will decide how the Pupil Premium is spent for the benefit of the entitled pupils.
- In making provision for disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be disadvantaged or underachieving. We also recognise that not all pupils who are disadvantaged are registered for or qualify for free school meals. Therefore, the school will allocate support to any groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being disadvantaged.

- The school will assess the additional provision that should be made for the individual pupils, with special attention on early intervention to maintain high levels of attendance.
- The school will be accountable for how it has used the additional funding to support the achievement of those pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.
- The headteacher will report to the governing body and parents regarding how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims, including publishing online information about how the Premium has been used.
- Our school will track the impact of the strategies put into place through the funding to ensure that we can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled children.

Provision

We will seek, continuously, to develop and refine strategies and interventions which will improve the progress and attainment of these pupils, taking account of the findings of current educational research in this field. Examples of the range of provision we may put in place include:

- Analysing attendance of disadvantaged pupils every half term and applying early intervention as appropriate.
- Providing small group or 1:1 support to focus on overcoming barriers to learning (intervention and pastoral support).
- Facilitating disadvantaged pupils' access to education and the curriculum through additional or specialist resources e.g. specialist software, one to one devices.
- Targeted intervention to support pupils in making progress.
- Additional careers advice and mentoring to boost aspirations.
- Engaging external support services to further support overcoming barriers to learning with families.
- Additional support for enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities.

Reporting Outcomes

Through the Headteachers report and as part of the Pupil Premium strategy document, there are regular updates for the governing body that will include:

- The progress made towards closing gaps for disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision made since the last report.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness of support offered, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision.

The governors will ensure that through the Pupil Premium strategy document there is information accessible to parents on the website outlining how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of closing the gap for socially disadvantaged pupils. A designated link governor will also monitor the progress of this group in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team.

Appeal

Any appeals against this policy will be made through the governors' complaints procedure.