

Grace Academy Coventry

Pupil Premium Policy

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Summary

This policy highlights the way in which Grace Academy uses funding specifically given for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

1 Background to the Pupil Premium

Introduced in April 2011, the Pupil Premium is a Government initiative that provides additional funding aimed at students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-disadvantaged peers. The Pupil Premium is provided in order to support these students in reaching their potential by accelerating their progress.

The Government has used students entitled to Free School Meals, and those who are “looked after” (in care) as an indicator for deprivation. They have given a fixed amount of money to schools per student, based on the number of students registered for Free School Meals and who are looked after by the local authority. A premium has also been introduced for students whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces. This service premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these students.

2 Overall Objectives

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

3 How we will ensure effective use of the Pupil Premium

- The Pupil Premium will be clearly identifiable within the budget. A costing sheet will be completed for each academic year, with an individual breakdown for each strand of intervention.
- Academy Leadership, in consultation with governors and designated Pupil Premium staff members, will decide how the Pupil Premium is spent for the benefit of the entitled students. Funding will be allocated following regular data reviews, where priority groups and individuals will be identified.
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged students, we recognise that not all students who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged or underachieving. We also recognise that not all students who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We therefore reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any groups of students the Academy has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.
- The Academy will assess if additional provisions should be made for individual students.

- The Academy will be accountable for how it has used the additional funding to support the achievement of those students covered by the Pupil Premium.
- Representatives from the Academy Leadership Team will report to the Local Governing Body and parents on how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims, including publishing online information about how the Premium has been used.
- We will track the impact of strategies put into place through funding and ensure that we can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled students.
- We will monitor, evaluate and review the success of the impact of the pupil premium funding. This will take place at provision level, and overall via Go4Schools.

4 Provision

We will regularly seek to further develop strategies and interventions to improve the progress and attainment of these students.

The provision we put in place is centred around: teaching, targeted academic support and wider strategies in a three-tiered approach. Examples of the range of provision we may put in place include:

Teaching

- Staff training and CPD at class-level on effective strategies to support closing the gap
- Strategic groups and achievement meetings to ensure these strategies are being deployed effectively
- A 'focus 5' whole school approach to: progress, behaviour and attendance

Targeted Academic Support

- Smaller classes in key focus areas
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through learning mentors, trained TAs or external agencies
- Small targeted intervention groups

Wider strategies:

- Using the academy Attendance Team to aid with attendance concerns or difficult personal circumstances.
- An ethos hub team led by the Ethos leader

5 Reporting Outcomes

It will be the duty of the Leadership team to produce an annual report for the Governing Body that will include:

- The progress made towards closing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged students.
- An outline of the provision made since the last report.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the students receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

Grace Academy will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents outlining how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of closing the gap for socially disadvantaged students.

6 Appeal

Any appeals against this policy will be through the Grace Academy Complaints Policy.

We will regularly seek to further develop strategies and interventions to improve the progress and attainment of these students.