Pupil Premium Strategy

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil premium is a designated amount of money that the government allocates to each school, based upon a number of factors which are linked to the perceived deprivation of individual children.

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)/children on the deprivation index and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

The Cookham, Maidenhead and The Lawns Nursery Federation Vision

Cookham Nursery School, Maidenhead Nursery School and The Lawns Nursery School and Pre-Nursery are determined that all children and their families succeed, achieve and thrive. The targeted and strategic use of pupil premium will support us further in achieving outstanding progress and diminishing the difference for all our children.

We have the freedom to choose how we spend the money to best support the children entitled to this additional funding. We believe that by using the research outlined in the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) on teaching and learning strategies we will make the most informed decisions to improve children's outcomes.

Principles

We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all the children.

We ensure that appropriate provision is made for children who belong to vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged children are adequately assessed and addressed.

In making provision for socially disadvantaged children, we recognise that not all children who are in the deprivation index will be socially disadvantaged.

We also recognise that not all children who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for pupil premium.

Provision

The range of provision we may consider:

- Reducing group sizes thus improving opportunities for effective assessment for learning and accelerating progress.
- Providing small group work with an experienced practitioner.
- Support for periods during free flow play in research-based informed interventions targeting areas of learning.
- Early Intervention using EEF programmes as a guidance;
- A programme of curriculum enrichment.
- Support with transition.
- Additional provision targeted at developing social relationships.
- Parenting support.
- Attendance focus.
- Consistent and excellent teaching and learning achieved through training.

All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age-related expectations. Initially this will be in the Prime areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; and Physical Development.

Pupil premium resources are used to enhance the learning of eligible children regardless of their attainment.

Measuring the impact of the Early Years Pupil Premium

We are continually assessing and evaluating the children's learning through interactions and observations during play. The children's learning journeys and formative assessment trackers showing their learning and development across the Foundation Stage therefore contribute to reviewing the impact of the EYPP. We also monitor children's communication and language skills against age-related expectations using a Communication and Language tracker. Other ways we measure and monitor the impact of the EYPP include:

- informal conversations at the start or end of a day;
- parent feedback in meetings;
- parent feedback forms on children's progress;
- achievement of individual targets;
- assessment meetings;
- conversations with other professionals.

These assessments and observations inform us whether children are on track in their educational development and assist in setting next steps.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher to report to Governors on:

- an outline of the Early Years Pupil Premium provision;
- an evaluation of the cost effectiveness.

The website will be updated annually to provide details of:

- the number of children eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium;
- the Early Years Pupil Premium allocation;
- our strategic approach to spending the EYPP allocation and our successes.

Approved by: Teaching and Learning Committee

Signed by Chair of Governors: ……

Date: 12th October 2026

Review Date: October 2027