

Pupil Premium Policy

Date Policy Written: January 2025

Date Policy Adopted by Trust Board:

To be reviewed: Every Year

1. Statement of intent

Ambition Community Trust is committed to ensuring that all pupils are supported in achieving the best possible outcomes. We recognise that some pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds require additional support in order for this to happen. Therefore, the Trust will ensure that Pupil Premium Funding is used effectively to support eligible pupils in closing the attainment gap. Ambition Community Trust recognises that each school understands their school community the best and therefore each school will retain their own funding, but the Trust will hold each school accountable for its use. Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. Where it is appropriate the Trust will also consider how it can be used:

- to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer
- for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Pupil Premium Funding is used effectively across the Trust to improve the educational outcomes and experiences of disadvantaged pupils. This policy will set out the approach each academy within the Trust will take to use the funding to close the attainment gap between the disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all of the academies within the Trust and to all disadvantaged pupils, which include:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM)
- Service Children (children from families linked to the armed forces)
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales

4. Aims and Objectives

This policy is implemented to ensure that the funding is used to:

- **Raising Attainment:** To improve the educational attainment for all pupils, including those who are classed as disadvantaged pupils, to ensure that pupils are given the best chance to achieve their full potential.
- **Closing the Gap:** To close the attainment and progress gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
- **Broadening Opportunities:** To provide wider educational experiences that support personal development and engagement in school life for all pupils who have been identified.
- **Ensuring Accountability:** To ensure that Pupil Premium Funding is used effectively and reported transparently

5. Responsibilities

This policy highlights the responsibility of staff across the Trust:

- **Trust Board:** The Trust board will delegate responsibility to the Finance Committee to oversee the strategic use of pupil premium Funding across the Trust, ensuring accountability and best practices.
- **CEO and Executive Leaders:** Whilst they will have oversight, delegated responsibility will be given to the local governing Bodies to review the implementation of the policy, monitor the impact, and provide guidance and resources to support and challenge headteachers.
- **Headteachers:** Ensure that Pupil Premium Funding is used in line with the policy and used to meet the specific needs of their school community
- **Pupil Premium Lead:** Each school will have a Pupil Premium Lead who will have responsibility for the planning, monitoring and evaluating of the interventions
- **Teaching and Support Staff:** Understand their role in knowing the pupils who are classed as disadvantaged and help to deliver targeted interventions.

6. Pupil Premium Strategy

Each school, in line with the government guidance, will complete a Pupil Premium Strategy, which will outline the following:

- **Assessment of Needs:** Identifying the barriers to learning and tailoring interventions to support this.
- **Allocation of Funding:** Outline how the funding will be spent on specific interventions such as academic support, wellbeing, enrichment activities, or family engagement.
- **Evidence-Based interventions:** Prioritise approaches with proven impact, such as tutoring, mentoring and curriculum resources.
- **Professional development:** Invest in training for staff to enhance teaching practices that benefit disadvantaged pupils.

Academies will follow the recommended government pupil premium strategy template. This will be shared with local governing bodies during the Autumn term and have oversight from the Trust Finance Committee. It will be available on each school website by December.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Each academy will take responsibility for the way in which their pupil premium is spent within their school community, but they will ensure that there is:

- **Data Tracking:** Each school will have their own systems in place to monitor the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils, ensuring that interventions are having the required impact.
- **Regular Reviews:** The Pupil Premium Lead and school leadership should review the effectiveness of the strategies and report the findings to their Local Governing Body
- **Reporting:** Each school will publish an annual report on the school website, detailing spending, impact and future plans. This report will be reviewed by the Local Governing Body but will be quality assured by the Finance Committee.

8. Transparency and Accountability

The Trust will ensure full accountability and transparency in the allocation and impact of Pupil Premium funding by:

- Publishing a summary of the Trust's approach on the main website
- Ensuring that Local Governing Bodies are reporting the effectiveness of strategies to all stakeholders
- Carrying out audits of school's use of Pupil Premium to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

9. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains effective and that it reflects any changes in Government guidelines or the Trust's strategic priorities.