Caldew School - Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium 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	Caldew School
Number of pupils in school	995 (874 Y7-11)
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	18.1% (19.2% Y7-11)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	Sept 2023-July 2026
Date this statement was published	November 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2026
Statement authorised by	Vicki Jackson
Pupil premium lead	Gavin Parker-Smith
Governor / Trustee lead	Clem Coady

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£190813

Part A: Pupil Premium Strategy Plan

Statement Of Intent

Our vision is that Caldew School is a place 'where every student is successful today and prepared for tomorrow'. Our Pupil Premium strategy plays a significant role in this vision, as its ultimate objective is to ensure that we realise the 'every student' aspect of this ambition.

It is driven by the absolute moral imperative that 'no young person, by virtue of their birth, should necessarily achieve less than others' (Sir John Dunford) and the belief that the educational opportunities that we provide can transform our students' lives. Our Pupil Premium strategy's objective is to provide an effective academic curriculum, excellent pastoral care and valuable enrichment opportunities to allow students to achieve the best possible outcomes. We recognise the impact that high-quality teaching has on students' progress and strive to ensure that all students receive the best teaching: quality of education should not be a lottery. Our school development plan's focus on the following areas is informed by our research and self-evaluation to ensure that we meet all of our students' needs:

- Clarity of sequencing and challenge for all students in our curriculum intent
- Adaptive teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all students
- Developing literacy and numeracy levels as tools to access the curriculum and future life
- Teaching to promote recall: students knowing more and remembering more

These 'Teaching and Learning' strategies are reinforced by our 'Every Student Achieves' priorities. Our work must be driven by 'assessment, not assumption' (Marc Rowland) so that we address the specific barriers to achievement for our students, whether this is attendance, literacy or engagement. As a result, developing more rigorous assessment to track students and identify those in need of intervention is a key priority in this area. The impact of strategies will be monitored at student and cohort level through rigorous self-evaluation, deliberately biased towards students who may be more likely to underachieve. If we are getting it right for our most vulnerable students, it will be right for everyone. Evaluation will also be more secure, based on substantial evidence, allowing plans to be evaluated thoroughly and refined meaningfully to inform change in our school for our students.

Challenges

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

Challenge	Detail of Challenge
~	Attendance: The attendance of some disadvantaged students is low, limits their progress and widens existing gaps. We need to understand why their attendance is low and support them to attend school regularly in order to achieve. We need our curriculum to identify and fill gaps in learning.
2	Prior Attainment: Fewer disadvantaged students reach the expected standard at the end of KS2, leading to further and sustained underachievement if they do not catch up and keep up. Engagement during remote learning was lower for some disadvantaged students, meaning that existing gaps have widened. Our teaching needs to be adaptive in order to plan for and respond to students' needs.
င	Literacy & Numeracy: More disadvantaged students have lower levels of literacy and numeracy, posing further barriers to learning and achievement. Our teaching needs to strengthen these fundamental skills, with effective intervention for students who need more support.
4	Engagement: Some students are not consistently engaged in school or learning (sometimes demonstrating behaviour which leads to fixed term suspensions). We need to implement our behaviour curriculum (routines, rewards and sanctions) consistently to support the achievement of all students.
S	Low aspirations: Some of our students have low expectations of themselves and their achievement, with low aspirations for their futures. Some do not see Key Stage 5 as an attainable pathway. We need to support their achievement and maximise their engagement in CEIAG opportunities.

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
To improve the attendance of disadvantaged students to be in line with non-	Appropriate interventions lead to improved attendance for individuals
disadvantaged students nationally	Attendance is at least 95%*
	Persistent absence is below 13%*
	(*Compared to pre-COVID national data)

To raise the attainment of disadvantaged students so that they achieve well	Interventions, including school-led tutoring programmes, have a positive impact on students' progress Positive Progress8 for disadvantaged students
To improve students' literacy and numeracy skills so that they can achieve well across the curriculum	Literacy and numeracy data and monitoring show improvement as a result of effective literacy and numeracy teaching, including interventions Positive Progress8 for disadvantaged students (in Maths, English and overall)
To improve the engagement of disadvantaged students	Appropriate interventions lead to improved engagement and behaviour for individuals Reduction in incidences of poor behaviour Reduction in Fixed Term Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions for disadvantaged students
To ensure that students make informed choices about the next stages of their lives	All students will progress to destinations, with no students NEET Increase in uptake of Level 3 courses

Activity In This Academic Year

This details how we intend to spend our Pupil Premium this academic year to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching

Budgeted cost: £7000

Activity:	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Review curriculum intent to ensure it provides clear guidance to teachers about what should be taught in all subjects. It should be clear and sequenced and challenging for all students. Sequenced and challenging for all students. Sequentially and cumulatively. The curriculum is an entitlement for every pupil. Any adaptations are made carefully with SEND.'	Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Leaders make sure that the curriculum is ambitious in breadth and depth for all pupils. Subject curriculums are well designed to build pupils' knowledge and skills sequentially and cumulatively. The curriculum is an entitlement for every pupil. Any adaptations are made carefully to avoid limiting expectations for disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND.'	2
Develop adaptive teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all students. • Participation in RADY project • CPD on adaptive teaching • Haili Hughes CPD (January INSET)	Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Teachers have the expertise and knowledge to make well-judged adaptations to overcome barriers to learning for pupils, particularly those with SEND. Any adaptations do not lower expectations for pupils or limit their access to the curriculum unnecessarily.'	1, 2, 3, 4
Develop literacy and numeracy levels as all students need these tools to access the curriculum and future life. • Vocabulary lists in all subjects • CPD on reading strategies: phonics and fluency	Following EEF guidance report- Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools EEF Geducationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) Disciplinary literacy, vocabulary and reading (Priorities 1-3)	ε
Design teaching to help promote recall- students knowing more and remembering more recall- study skills and revision Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Teachers explain new content of pupils already know and/or introducing new content and concepts in a meaningful context. Teachers revisit important content and concepts	Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Teachers explain new content clearly, connecting new information with what pupils already know and/or introducing new content and concepts in a meaningful context. Teachers revisit important content and concepts	1, 2

 Retention and retrieval planned and sequenced within subject curriculum 	regularly so that pupils learn them securely and remember them.'	
Develop summative assessment so that it is rigorous, accurate and Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Teachers check pupils' understanding provides data that can be used by leaders to track students' progress systematically, identifying and remedying any gaps and identify students in need of intervention.	and Ofsted toolkit (2025): 'Teachers check pupils' understanding ess systematically, identifying and remedying any gaps or misconceptions.'	2, 3
Data packageDevelopment work on assessment		
Develop the ability of colleagues to manage behaviour in a positive and Evidence suggests that, on average, behaviour interventions relational way by embedding the principles of "positive regard" across all can produce moderate improvements in academic performance areas of school life.	and Evidence suggests that, on average, behaviour interventions s all can produce moderate improvements in academic performance along with a decrease in problematic behaviours.	4

Targeted Academic Support: Intervention and Tutoring

Budgeted cost: £65335

	EVidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Numeracy Strategy: implement and embed a whole school numeracy teaching and intervention strategy to address the gaps which exist on entry	EEF Toolkit: Teaching Assistant Interventions (+4 months) 'Research which focuses on teaching assistants who provide one to one or small group targeted interventions shows a stronger positive benefit of between four and six additional months on average. Often interventions are based on a clearly specified approach which teaching assistants have been trained to deliver'; our numeracy interventions will be delivered by a specialist HLTA. 'Short sessions of around 30 minutes or so, several times a week are most effective' so the intervention timetable will be based on this model. The intervention curriculum links to the Maths curriculum, supporting pre-teaching, including vocabulary, so links to the evidence on the positive impact of oral language interventions.	2 & 3
Reading intervention programmes at both KS3 and KS4:	EEF Toolkit: Teaching Assistant Interventions (+4 months); Reading Comprehension Strategies (+6 months)	2 & 3
Phonics CPD (Ruth Miskin) and Read, Write, Inc Fresh Start resources Sparx Reader Fluency HLTA Literacy	As above, but with literacy specialist HLTA. Intervention is based on regular, short, 1:1 reading sessions or small group interventions based on the Reciprocal Reading model, which is underpinned by metacognition. Our evaluation of 1:1 and Reciprocal Reading interventions showed that students' standardised literacy scores increased by twice as much as those who had no intervention. Where needed, students also receive Read, Write, Inc Fresh Start phonics intervention. Students progress well through the programme.	
Establish Caldew Achievement Zone as high quality, bespoke provision • Learning Mentor • TA (funded by SEND)	EEF Toolkit: Metacognition and Self-Regulation (+7 months) Dedicated provision tailored to students' individual needs. EEF Toolkit: Small Group Tuition (+4 months) 'Small group tuition approaches can support pupils to make effective progress by providing intensive, targeted academic support to those identified as having low prior attainment or at risk of falling behind. The approach allows the teacher to focus on the needs of a small number of learners and provide teaching that is closely matched to pupil understanding. Small group tuition offers an opportunity for greater levels of interaction and feedback compared to whole class teaching which can support pupils to overcome barriers to learning and increase their access to the curriculum.'	4 % 1

Small group tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	EEF Toolkit: Small Group Tuition (+4 months) Evidence shows that small group tuition is effective and, as a rule of thumb, the smaller the group the better. Some studies suggest that greater feedback from the teacher, more sustained the engagement in smaller groups, or work which is more closely matched to learners' needs explains this impact. Small group tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	
	Small group academic intervention targeted at students at risk of not achieving at the level required for their desired next steps.	

Wider Strategies: Attendance, Behaviour and Wellbeing

Budgeted cost: £118597

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Provide breakfasts to students	Some students leave home early and have long journeys to school. Pre-school and morning breaktime support allows students to have breakfast.	1, 4
Address the barriers to low attendance through targeted support, informed by Sol Attendance package, coordinated by Associate Assistant Headteacher for attendance	EEF Toolkit: Parental Engagement (+4 months); EEF Toolkit: Mentoring (+2 months) 'Parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress. It is crucial to consider how to engage with all parents to avoid widening attainment gaps There is some evidence that personalised messages linked to learning can promote positive interactions.' We are funding additional capacity specifically for disadvantaged students and their families. If students do not attend school, they will underachieve. Our experience also shows that working directly with students, with regular mentoring, attendance improves. Our approach is based on the DFE's 'Improving School Attendance' guidance.	_
Address the barriers to positive engagement in school by supporting whole school behaviour procedures, delivering behaviour and engagement interventions Pastoral Manager Positive Regard CPD	EEF Toolkit: Behaviour Interventions (+4 months) EEF Toolkit: Mentoring (+2 months) 'Behaviour interventions seek to improve attainment by reducing challenging behaviour in school. This entry covers interventions aimed at reducing a variety of behaviours, from low-level disruption to aggression, violence, bullying, substance abuse and general anti-social activities.'	4
Support students' wider participation in all aspects of school life through financial support (Trips, visits, uniform etc.)	EEF Toolkit: School Uniform (+? Months) Whilst 'there is little robust evidence that introducing a school uniform will, by itself, improve academic performance, behaviour, or attendance There is a belief that school uniform supports the development of a whole school ethos and therefore supports discipline and motivation. Some also believe that a uniform promotes social equity.' Students should have the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of school life. (See below re: trips.)	4 8 5

2 & 5 tion tion rips lere arts-	s of gher e of gher nout gap. aim ons
EEF Toolkit: Arts Participation (+3 months) 'There is intrinsic value in teaching pupils creative and performance skills and ensuring disadvantaged pupils access a rich and stimulating arts education. Arts participation may be delivered within the core curriculum, or though extra-curricular or cultural trips which can be subject to financial barriers for pupils from deprived backgrounds. There is some evidence to suggest a causal link between arts education and the use of arts-based approaches with overall educational attainment.'	EEF Toolkit: Aspiration Interventions (+? months) 'Studies in England suggest that different socioeconomic groups have similar levels of aspiration for their future outcomes and that differences in participation rates in higher education are largely driven by academic attainment. Given the broad range of attitudes, behaviours and beliefs surrounding aspirations in communities with higher rates of poverty, schools should avoid generalisations. Aspiration interventions without an academic component are unlikely to narrow the disadvantaged attainment gap. Teacher expectations play a role in shaping pupil outcomes and teachers should aim to communicate a belief in the academic potential of all pupils.' Essentially, increased attainment and achievement are the means to raise aspirations so targeted CEIAG activities are only effective in conjunction with effective teaching and learning and targeted academic interventions.
Provide music lessons for disadvantaged students who want to learn an instrument	Raise aspirations of disadvantaged students in KS3 and KS4 through additional CEIAG or targeted support to maximise participation in and benefit of CEIAG opportunities for all

Total budgeted cost: £190932

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 academic year.

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AIII	Outcome	Next Steps
To improve the	 Attendance of disadvantaged students has increased by 1.2% since 2023-2024 (84.7% from 83.5%) which 	 More sensitive
attendance of	is similar to the overall improvement of 1.3% for all students (91.5% from 90.2%), meaning that the gap is	trigger points
disadvantaged	maintained rather than narrowed.	for
students to be	 The improvement seen for all students in the spring term isn't matched by disadvantaged students. 	disadvantaged
in line with	 Reward scheme for all students (weekly draw and 'Super 6' incentive; end of term rewards to avoid 'dip' 	students to
-uou	before holidays)	ensure earlier
disadvantaged	 Student voice: they all know what good attendance is and why it is important; they value individual 	actions and
stndents	attention and a direct interest in them.	support
nationally	 Increase in requests for financial support for transport e.g. contribution towards bus/ train ticket 	 Dedicate time/
		capacity to
		supporting
		attendance
		through
		individual
		support/
		mentoring
		Use of
		information
		from previous
		year/ phase to
		inform actions
		and support
To raise the	 GCSE results for 2025 show improved attainment for students who are disadvantaged compared to 2024. 	 Disadvantaged
attainment of	As increased to 34.81 (up from 31.55), improving across English, Maths, Ebacc and Open buckets. The	students to be a
disadvantaged	proportion of students who attained a grade 4 in English and Maths rose from 33% to 40%, but there was	thread through
students so	no improvement at 5+ and 7+. Whilst students have attained better, they are still not attaining as highly as	all development
that they		plans
acnieve well	 Internal data and monitoring (including work samples) show attainment of students who are disadvantaged 	Focus on
	is lower than non-disadvantaged students.	Quality of Work:
		establish

routines; plan CPD and	programme.	Broaden range	of reading	interventions:	phonics,	fluency,	comprehension	Improved	tracking of	for literacy and	numeracy	Further develop	bespoke	provision-	curriculum; exit	plan for	students;	capacity to	support next	tier of SEMH	need through	provision and	more effective	the school	(Positive	Regard	training)				
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oring of	.II es 10	(0	rogramme		Observation	nency to be						ehaviour		ect	-e			Summer 2		471	638	909	529	27	22	0	2322	24	27	11	4
Recent Quality of work monitoring has focused on disadvantaged students' work. Skewed monitoring prevents the extremes from being lost to the averages. Whilst there is some good work, this is not consistent and needs to be a priority for 2025-2026. Leaders are working on Quality of Work routines to support consistency.	ars 7-1	ain on p		hing. O	gies. Flu	ı fluenc	ig and				d hoddr		Little dir	resilien			Sum	L	300	318	165	218	~	1	0	1003	19	31	13	4	
	aged; Ye	nts rem		and coac	g strate	ement in	reasonii				o and su		ilience	ticularly	rnor visit		er 1	LLION	395	788	999	292	212	26	0	2649	21	28	6	2	
	sadvanta	21 stude		or CPD a	al readin	s improv	space,				o react t		and res	and par	ist gover		Summer 1	L	219	447	192	218	99	4	-	1137	19	33	11	2	
d studen ere is so	vantaged studen Whilst there is so iders are working	not all dis	nmer 2; ,		Focus fo	reciproc	ta shows	nape and				irtment to		ehaviour	haviour	y special		12	L L	429	911	778	630	388	44	24	3204	21	26	6	2
vantage Whilst the		Phonics specialist CPD and phonics programme in place. 104 (not all disadvantaged; Years 7-10)	after Sur		fluency.	sed with	orts. Da	rticular needs: number, shape and space, reasoning and			s of Depi	dance, b	nent in b	ice durin		Spring 2	L	237	485	193	232	124	4	2	1280	17	59	13	3		
on disad erages V 326. Lea	uzo. Lea	e in plac	vention a	ö	reading	when us	chool rep	eeds: nn				d Heads	irticularly	focusing on attendance, behaviour and resilience. Little direct	nproven	observed in sessions and reported through student voice during specialist governor visit aviour Data		11	L LION	267	220	479	222	326	38	8	2260	24	25	6	2
ocused of	2023-2	ogramm	identified in Autumn; 83 progressed out of intervention after Summer 2; 21 students remain on programme; all students who need intervention now included	/ include	ocns on	effective	ed on sc	rticular n				Year an	END-pa	ocusing (some in	ough stu		Spring 1	L	125	377	156	247	148	3	0	1056	19	27	15	3
ing has find lost to	nointy ior	onics pr		tion now	English curriculum adapted to include focus on reading fluency. Focus for CPD and coaching.	shows use of fluency strategies; more effective when used with reciprocal reading strategies. Fluency to be tracked termly and reading advice shared on school reports. Data shows improvement in fluency	ice shar	ed at par				Heads of	P and SI		ince, but	orted thr		n 2	L	206	631	929	615	405	29	7	2469	24	22	12	2
monitor from bei	o be a p	and ph		interven			ding advi	ıs target				Behaviour dashboard allows Heads of Year and Heads of Department to react to and support behaviour	tween P	Commando Joe's Programme (KS3)	attenda	and repo		Autumn 2	L	132	454	208	348	182	3	0	1327	22	28	18	2
Recent Quality of work monitoring has prevents the extremes from being lost	tency.	alist CPI		ho need	ulum ada		, and rea	Numeracy interventions targeted at pa					Increasing overlap between PP and SEND- particularly SEMH	loe's Pro	evidence of impact on attendance, but some improvement in behaviour and particularly resilience-	essions		11	L	80	712	695	647	9//	38	9	2954	27	28	12	2
t Quality text the e	consistent and need support consistency	cs speci	fied in A	dents w	sh curric	s use of	ed termly	racy inte	interpretation.			viour da	asing ov	nando Jc	ince of ir	rved in s	ır Data	Autumn 1	L	80	474	242	384	215	3	-	1399	24	28	16	2
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		To improve	students	literacy and	numeracy	skills so that	tney can	achieve well	across the	5		To improve the	engagement of	disadvantaged	stndents																

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			<u></u>		~					2				On track to achieve 5 KS4 Qualifications	\	Z	>	Y	\	z	\	III PP			pIn										
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	Summer 1	д	1318	1231	1049	526	284	19	12	4439			Jul-25	Attending Fuglish	Patter Gn∃ ≻ Z ≻ ;	У	λ	\	Υ	interview with an unbiased level 6 Careers Leader. Currently all PP			y to Lev												
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 	1 1	Non- PP	8778	7395	7348	5858	5065	69	51	34564		wed te		-neqeue anois	0	10	က	1	0	0	1	All Year 11 PP students have had a	a plan 1	t surve	workin	ctivitie	Year 10 Work Experience carried out successfully.	-							
Achievement Data	Autumn 1	<u>Б</u>	3075		1488	920	1149	10		8529		Data: (Reviewed termly: Summer 20		Behaviour Logs	11	61	172	165	9	0	1	11 PP	have a	studen	leader	and a	Work E								
eveme		<u> </u>	30	18	14	6	11	1		82				Attendance	30.18	76.92	94 08	97.93	68.84	0	90.24	Year	udents	ar 11	areers	. Visite	ar 10								
Achie			7	∞	6	10	11	12	13	¥		CAZ		Year	11	6	∞	6	8	10	6	• A	stı	÷ •	ပ <u>ိ</u>	pe	•								
																						To ensure that	students make	informed	choices about	the next	stages of their	lives							

