

Pupil premium case study: Wykeham Primary School

The school's context

Wykeham is a large primary school serving a diverse community in Brent. Most pupils live in privately rented or local authority housing. Almost 25% of pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM), and 74% of the school population has English as an additional language. The school is also welcoming more eastern European new arrivals in the early stages of acquiring English. In 2013-2014, the school received £225,900 in pupil premium funding.

How does the school spend the pupil premium?

Decisions on how to spend the pupil premium are rooted in the schools' values and learning philosophy, with all children encouraged to develop their skills and understanding, and reach their full potential.

"Our school motto is 'committed to excellence and equality'. Rather than use solely FSM entitlement as the criterion for additional interventions, we identify pupils on the basis of the individual need. We therefore use the pupil premium in various ways to meet the diverse needs of all our learners."

School Leadership Team

The school has a core objective for spending the pupil premium: to improve the attainment and progress of children eligible for the pupil premium, and narrow the gap with their peers in English and mathematics.

There are effective tracking systems in place that enable all teachers to track all pupils, including those who attract pupil premium funding. Assessment data is used to identify pupils and make decisions on appropriate interventions. There are a wide range of projects funded by the pupil premium, including:

- Extending targeted one-to-one support and tuition
- Employing an additional teacher to provide specialist support and intervention
- Running booster sessions for year 6 pupils during the Easter holiday
- Funding two additional teaching assistants to deliver small group interventions
- Employment of play workers during lunch breaks to improve sport experiences
- Extending opportunities for pupils to enjoy and be inspired by artistic and cultural experiences in and out of school, such as trips, workshops, and theatrical and musical events.

One innovative initiative has been to provide mini-books to a targeted group of pupils to enhance opportunities for learning at home. Dongles are also provided to connect to the Internet at home, allowing pupils to undertake research and access the school's managed learning environment (MLE)

What is the impact of the school's work?

Data from the 2012-2013 school year shows the impact of the school's pupil premium. Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals are performing as well as, and in some cases better than, non-FSM peers. Overall children FSM-eligible pupils have made very good progress in relation to their starting points, and attainment of this group is good when compared with other pupils in the school and national data.

At the end of key stage 1 and key stage 2, the average points score (APS) for pupils eligible for the pupil premium were in line with other pupils, and above the national APS scores in all subjects.