

Anthony Gell School - Pupil Premium Statement 2025-2026

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged students. It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and shows outcomes for disadvantaged students last academic year.

School Overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school (Year 7-11)	640
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	27%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2025/26 - 2029/30
Date this statement was published	31/10/2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	30/09/2026
Statement authorised by	Malcolm Kelly - Headteacher
Pupil Premium lead	Nick Watts - Deputy Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Annie Nelson

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£196,805
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
Pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding carried forward from previous years	£0
Total budget for this academic year	£196,805

Part A: Pupil Premium Strategy Plan

Statement of Intent

At Anthony Gell School, we believe all students should be entitled to achieve their potential to access successful transitions and contribute to the workplace and communities in which they live in years to come.

The school supports students to make good progress and achieve high attainment across the curriculum. Our focus is supporting disadvantaged students to achieve that end, including those who have already secured high levels of attainment.

We will consider the barriers vulnerable students face, such as those whose families rely on support from social workers, or those who are young carers. Our strategy aims to support their needs, irrespective of whether they are disadvantaged or not.

Excellent teaching is at the heart of our mission. Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) research underpins our approach to the professional development of our staff, and the strategies employed by them to have the most significant impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap. This approach will also mean that non-disadvantaged students' attainment will be sustained and improved alongside progress for their disadvantaged peers.

Our strategy aligns with plans for education recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, inclusive of some targeted support for students who have fallen behind, including non-disadvantaged students. We will take a dynamic approach, based on individual need, rooted in diagnostic assessment, which is regularly reviewed and improved.

Our strategy aims to

- create a culture where all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged students' outcomes
- equip staff with the expertise required to provide high quality teaching
- ensure our curriculum enables disadvantaged students to thrive
- to provide the support needed to enable the disadvantaged gap to close

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Reading: Reading presents a barrier to learning across the curriculum where low reading age persists. On entry to the school, the reading age of disadvantaged students, determined by 'Literacy Assessment Online' lags behind non-disadvantaged students. The average reading age, on entry, of disadvantaged students is currently 10 yrs and 10 mths, compared to 12yrs and 3mths for other students in the school. A smaller number of disadvantaged students experience persistently low reading ages, and these students struggle to access the curriculum without significant intervention. Reading comprehension approaches are cited as one of the two most significant interventions likely to reduce the performance gaps, equating to 6 months of learning (EEF).
2	Maths: The maths ability of disadvantaged students lags that of their peers. On entry, Key Stage 3 target grade distribution in Maths shows that 30% of the disadvantaged cohort is below the national standard compared to 20% in the national 'other' (non-disadvantaged) cohort.
3	Attendance: Attendance gaps exist for the disadvantaged cohort. Disadvantaged students are more likely to be above the persistent absentee rate for 'other' students. The outcomes of disadvantaged students lag that of 'other' students and attendance is cited as a significant barrier to achievement by the Education Endowment Foundation.
4	Behaviour: The incidences of negative behaviour for students in the disadvantaged cohort are greater than in the non-disadvantaged cohort by a factor of 3:1. Equally, disadvantaged students are less likely to be rewarded for positive behaviour and

	<i>engagement (40% less likely to receive positive points). The use of pastoral support for individual students and families is a key part of the delivery of the pupil premium fund using the pastoral and welfare team.</i>
5	Outcomes: <i>Can be lower as indicated by external exam results and behaviour incidences. Metacognitive practices are identified by the EEF as high impact for low cost. The school is currently supporting the development of 'learning to learn' and quality-first teaching strategies across the curriculum to allow for improved self-regulation.</i>

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
<i>Improved reading and comprehension across the curriculum because of the implementation of reading interventions and CPD (staff training).</i>	<p>Reading intervention programmes will show a narrowing of the gap and improvements in reading age scores, for students in Key Stage 3.</p> <p>We will aim for a reading age gap of less than one year by the end of a student's time in Year 9.</p> <p>CPD programme to centre on effective strategies which can be employed across the curriculum.</p> <p>Demonstrable impact of interventions across Key Stages – including Lexonik and Pearson interventions.</p>
<i>Numeracy interventions show a sustained improvement of acquisition of maths skills, leading to improved assessment outcomes for disadvantaged students.</i>	<p>The 'Progress 8' gap in Maths GCSE outcomes to narrow to better than national.</p> <p>The 'Attainment 8' gap in Maths to narrow to better than national.</p> <p>Key Stage 3 data analysis to show demonstrable narrowing of attainment gaps between Years 7 and 9 using in school data and tracking systems.</p>
<i>Attendance of the disadvantaged cohort improves and is sustained through the period of this plan.</i>	<p>Attendance of 'other' students is above 95% and the attendance of the disadvantaged cohort improves to 90% or above.</p> <p>Persistent absentee (PA) rates for disadvantaged students improves to not in excess of 20% (at <= 90% attendance threshold).</p>
<i>Behaviour for learning and behaviour management systems will show improved behaviour data for PP students and high levels of contact and</i>	Behaviour for Learning data analysis to indicate that disadvantaged students are equally likely to achieve positive behaviour points (1:1 ratio) and are increasingly less likely to be awarded negative behaviour points (target area of approximately 2:1 ratio (currently 4:1 ratio), disadvantaged compared to non-disadvantaged students).

<p><i>resource allocation (including Early Help family of schools' worker) directed to disadvantaged students and their families.</i></p>	<p>Soft data will show high rates of contact with the families of disadvantaged students including number of meetings, involvement of early help interventions and student voice.</p> <p>Suspension and exclusion data to reflect low levels of exclusion</p>
<p>Key EEF strategies to be employed by all teachers to improve specifically in the disadvantaged cohort with engagement rates in classroom learning.</p>	<p>Impactful peer-to-peer CPD programme to be implemented - focussing on EEF principles of best practice with a focus on formative assessment, meta-cognitive approaches, 5-a-day strategies, retrieval and reading and literacy support.</p> <p>Outcomes will be measurable in the Quality Assurance process, altered Schemes of Work, progress data, along with student and staff voice activities.</p>

Activity during this Academic Year

This details how we intend to spend our Pupil Premium (and recovery premium) funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: **£41,004**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>EEF strategies to support disadvantaged attainment and progress including focussed work on metacognition. (self-knowledge)</p> <p>Sharing of best practice embedded into our CPD programme.</p> <p>Revised QA systems mean all forms of QA focus on Pupil Premium students.</p>	<p><u>EEF - metacognition</u> EEF consider this to be one of the most important interventions in developing self-aware and reflective learners. Our CPD Programme is designed to utilise the Learning Sciences to better enable students to learn knowledge through retrieval and interleaving practices. Spaced practice and dual-coding are considered important tools to deepen knowledge and to create learners who are more flexible in the digital workplace:</p> <p><u>https://www.oecd.org/site/educeri21st/0554221.pdf</u></p> <p>Between 2023 and 2025, one of the key focus areas for our new Peer to Peer programme is behaviour for learning, inclusive of meta-cognition (self-knowledge) to support progress.</p>	<p>5, 4</p>

<p>Strategies to support formative assessment</p>	<p>EEF research on formative assessment</p> <p>EEF research points to the importance of effective feedback.</p> <p>This year, in addition to behaviour for learning, and collaborative working, a peer-to-peer CPD programme will focus on developing strategies to further enhance feedback.</p>	<p>1, 5, 4</p>
<p>Reading</p> <p><i>Diagnostic testing continues to be delivered through the English curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>Reading for pleasure and increased access to literature continues to be a focus.</i></p> <p>Reading strategy</p> <p><i>Learning mentors continue with targeted support.</i></p> <p><i>Better teacher awareness to lead to better adaptations.</i></p> <p><i>Lexonik intervention programme introduced.</i></p> <p><i>Pearson reading schemes introduced.</i></p>	<p>EEF Reading Comprehension Strategies Literacy remains one of the most significant barriers to learning in the school curriculum. TES reading diagnostic tools are being introduced to better diagnose gaps and support in the creation of personalised goals around comprehension, engaged reading time, and students' reading levels to keep them on the path to future success.</p> <p>The use of the reading hour in our English curriculum (Key Stage 3), along with weekly reading time in tutor time intends to embed a 'best practice' model of implementation, which, research shows, adds significant value to ability to read and improve comprehension https://p.widencdn.net/ipvvlr/R58148</p> <p>Use of the Lexonik programme will be used to impact on reading.</p> <p>https://lexonik.co.uk/independent-impact-evaluation-studies</p> <p>Use of the Pearson reading schemes:</p> <p>https://www.pearson.com/en-gb/schools/subject-resources/literacy-and-english/people-pedagogy-and-progress.html</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Faculty/subject 'pupil premium first' practices across all Key Stages.</p> <p><i>Prioritising disadvantaged students first through a range of teaching and learning practices and classroom organisation. This involves the consistent identification of disadvantaged students in classrooms and the</i></p>	<p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit</p> <p>Employing a range of teaching and learning strategies to include adjustments of seating plans, feedback of learning in lessons, targeted questioning, 1:1 intervention in lessons including work with learning mentors, small group work, and provision of paid for resources to support learning from</p>	<p>1, 3, 4</p>

<p><i>implementation of additionality, whether in terms of time to work with students or to provide feedback in learning in order to bring about success.</i></p>	<p>home. These strategies are indicated by EEF as having moderate to high impact when delivered consistently across the curriculum.</p>	
<p><i>Improving literacy in all subject areas</i> <i>in line with recommendations in the EEF Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools guidance.</i></p> <p><i>Whole school literacy strategy developed and shared at Faculty and staff level with a focus on disciplinary literacy.</i></p>	<p>Acquiring disciplinary literacy is key for students as they learn new, more complex concepts in each subject:</p> <p>Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools</p> <p>Reading comprehension, vocabulary and other literacy skills are heavily linked with attainment in maths and English:</p> <p>word-gap.pdf (oup.com.cn)</p>	1, 2
<p><i>Lead Practitioner in Inclusive Practice appointed to further promote best practice and support the work of the SENCo in targeting support for DA SEND students.</i></p>	<p>EEF research shows that SEND students are likely to suffer attainment and progress gaps at least as big as DA (Disadvantaged) students.</p> <p>DA students are also disproportionately likely to be SEND students.</p> <p>Our lead practitioner will deliver focussed CPD (staff training) throughout the year and a new faculty structure will mean QA (Quality Assurance) activity focuses even more on DA students.</p>	1,2,3,5

Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £63,839 (Learning Mentors, Specialist Teaching Assistant (TA) provisions and support, SEND and SEMH)

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p><i>Literacy & numeracy interventions.</i></p> <p>Designated colleagues will use performance/progress data (using software such as SISRA), along with 'soft' data from classroom learning to identify key cohorts for intervention.</p>	<p>KS3 and KS4 small group and 1:1 interventions to support improved literacy. EEF One to One Tuition are considered high impact for moderate cost particularly when these are in addition to the normal teaching delivery model. Such interventions intend to identify learning gaps and to give individualised instruction to improve basic numeracy and literacy skills.</p>	1, 2, 4,

<p><i>Employing either small group work or one-to-one tuition, the learning mentors will work to improve targeted areas as identified in skills audits.</i></p> <p><i>Cross-phase working with partner primary schools, along with working across all subjects to improve literacy and numeracy, including the use of tutor time, aims to improve basic skills and close gaps, particularly those which widened during COVID.</i></p>	<p>Small group interventions are also identified as having a moderate impact. Intensive tuition in small groups is often provided to support lower attaining learners or those who are falling behind, but it can also be used as a more general strategy to ensure effective progress, or to teach challenging topics or skills. EEF Small Group Tuition</p>	
<p>Targeted Faculty-led interventions/tuition sessions run by faculties inclusive of specialist revision sessions in the build-up to summative assessments.</p> <p><i>This includes the use of GCSE Pod and other software packages, our use of which is geared to impacting positively on DA progress.</i></p>	<p>Following data collection points, small group interventions will take place led by teachers and other support staff</p>	1, 2, 3

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £92,148 some items in the activity fall as part of the wider school strategy therefore apportion little costs within this statement.

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Contingency fund to support engagement and attainment. Requests are made by staff to bid for monies to support the delivery of the curriculum and wider school opportunities along with well-being resources</p>	<p>This fund ensures that students from disadvantaged backgrounds can access all aspects of the curriculum, including enrichment opportunities (cultural capital).</p>	4, 5
<p>Attendance monitoring through the deployment of the Pastoral Managers and Attendance Officer</p> <p><i>The Pastoral Managers, along with the tutor system,</i></p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance/framework-for-securing-full-attendance-actions-for-schools-and-local-authorities</p> <p>There is a clear link between school attendance, attainment and examination</p>	3, 4, 5

<p><i>delivers first day response and longer-term interventions to improve student attendance. The response requires consistent communication and delivery of support to students and families to break the cycle of absence which is greater in the disadvantaged cohort than national 'others'</i></p>	<p>outcomes. The Key - report on attendance and attainment</p>	
<p><i>Behaviour for learning management through the Pastoral Managers.</i> <i>The delivery of behaviour interventions with students and their families who display higher level and persistent behaviour concern.</i> <i>The development of House and School Ethos to celebrate positive behaviour alongside the above.</i></p>	<p>EEF Behaviour interventions Behaviour interventions are seen as having moderate impacts. More specialised programmes targeting students with specific behavioural issues may improve student behaviour.</p> <p>Approaches to developing a positive school ethos or improving discipline across the whole school which also aim to support greater engagement in learning</p> <p>Progress Lead Roles (mentors) introduced into KS4 to support students with behaviour for learning related to GCSE progress and attainment.</p>	<p>4, 3</p>
<p><i>Deployment of the Family of Schools Workers (Early Help team) to work with the families of vulnerable students to improve engagement</i></p>	<p>Early intervention services directed toward families with more complex needs can benefit the child at school by providing support for the family including behaviour management, safeguarding, family communication and accessing basic multi-agency services.</p>	<p>3, 4, 5</p>
<p><i>Year 11 Mentoring scheme</i> To ensure DA students in Year 11 have bespoke support the extended leadership team mentor students, coordinating support around access arrangements, additional resourcing and pastoral provision. And, ensuring enhanced communication with parents.</p>	<p>EEF evidence outlines the impact of mentoring schemes and enhanced communication with DA parents.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>

<i>Adventure Unlocked – partnership working with a specialist outdoor education instructor who is running sessions disproportionately comprised of disadvantaged students.</i>	<u>The EEF recommend</u> using outdoor education as a means of improving disadvantaged student engagement.	3,4,5
<i>Outdoor Education Coordinator – appointed to coordinate a range of activities including Duke of Edinburgh and sailing trips which are disproportionately accessed by disadvantaged students.</i>	<u>The EEF recommend</u> using outdoor education as a means of improving disadvantaged student engagement	3,4,5

Total budgeted cost: £196,991 out of £196,805

N.B; the school budget will support this slight overspend of £186 which has been allocated and paid through staff wage costs increasing over time.

Part B: Review of the Previous Academic Year

Outcomes for Disadvantaged Students

Headline Measure	21/22 Exams	22/23 Exams	23/24 Exams	24/25 Exams
Average Total Attainment 8	31.11	31.84	36.43	32.7
Average KS2 Prior Attainment	97	100	102	99
Students Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths	17.2	11.5	17.1	15.6
Students Achieving 9-4 in English and Maths	41.4	26.9	40	43.8

	Attainment Gaps Over Time				
	2019	2023	2024	2025	National 2025
Disadvantaged Gap	28.3	20.2	17.1	18.1	15.4

- The Average total attainment 8 returned the second highest scores across the last 4 years.
- The average Prior Attainment was the second lowest across the past 4 years.
- The proportion of students achieving grades 9-5 Basics was the second highest across the past 4 years.
- The proportion of students achieving grades 9-4 in Basics was the highest in any of the past 4 years.
- When compared to the national attainment gap between the disadvantaged and on-disadvantaged cohorts, the gap at AGS was slightly higher but is the second narrowest gap across the last 4 years.

Overall outcomes

After growing significantly during and after covid, the gap between the Progress 8 and Attainment 8 scores of our disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students has reduced from where it was in 2019. In 2024, the gap between DA students and the non-disadvantaged group remains wider than leaders would have hoped at this stage of the five-year strategic cycle at Progress 8 -0.9. This does represent an improvement on the previous year.

Importantly, the absolute Progress 8 of this group is much better than in previous years (-0.38 in 2024 compared to -0.77 in 2023 and -0.87 in 2019). When compared to the national performance of the disadvantaged group in 2023 (-0.57), we can see the overall P8 of our disadvantaged cohort is likely to be better than this when performance tables are published later this year. For reference, the national disadvantaged gap was -0.74 in 2023.

This improvement, and the reviews we have undertaken, demonstrate that many of the school's strategies (such as mentoring and the focus on formative assessment) have had a positive impact on DA progress. However, there is also evidence (as mentioned above) that there is much room for improvement.

See [DfE guidance](#) for more information about KS4 performance measures.

Behaviour

Our monitoring of behaviour data demonstrated that student behaviour improved last year, but challenges around wellbeing and mental health remain higher than before the pandemic. Disadvantaged students have been disproportionately impacted in this regard and the school's pastoral systems are increasingly coping well with the challenges presented.

DA students do remain disproportionately more likely to be suspended, but our rates of suspension are well below those of similar schools meaning we suspend fewer disadvantaged students less frequently than other schools.

With further work on CPD, behaviour data is showing that detentions are reducing, especially with incidents of low level disruption.

Disadvantaged students at AGS are also as likely to be rewarded as their peers and are more likely to attend rewards trips and engage with our outdoor education programme.

Attendance

There are case studies demonstrating the success of our attendance and pastoral team's very positive impact with individual students and families last year, but overall, disadvantaged students remain more likely to be absent, and much more likely to be persistently absent.

Reading and literacy

Early reviews of Lexonik and Pearson reading schemes demonstrate a positive impact on students who are involved in these interventions, with several students making upwards of two years' progress after participating. We are now looking to extend the numbers of students accessing these interventions and continue to monitor performance moving forward.

Numeracy

Analysis of PP Numeracy interventions demonstrates that there was a mixed impact with case studies of DA students having achieved well in summer examinations. These students tended to be in higher ability groups and lower ability DA students fared less well in GCSEs. In mathematics specifically, there was a decline in the attainment of higher ability DA students which is an issue we are now monitoring. Overall, maths remains a focus for development regarding disadvantaged students, with the gap in maths larger than in other subjects within the school.

Service Pupil Premium Funding

How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year

We set up clubs for all children and ensure service children are included or offered a place in addition to enrichment activities such as music lessons and cultural visits. This supports friendships between service students. Pastoral staff are available to support service students with anxiety and loss when a family member is deployed. We can offer support through funding requests if appropriate.

The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible students

All service children attended class visits and other educational experiences offered; and they can make additional requests for support where appropriate and as such feel supported by Anthony Gell. Staff notice an improvement in their engagement socially and in lessons as a result.

Further Information (optional)

Planning, implementation, and evaluation

In reviewing our current pupil premium strategy, we evaluated why activity undertaken in the previous year had not had the degree of impact that we had expected.

The above endeavours are further to research on other schools' provision where those schools have seen significantly improved outcomes for PP students. We used the [EEF's implementation guidance](#) to help us develop our strategy and will continue to use it through the implementation of our activities.

We have also had support from Embark Federation who have reviewed approaches and supported the school's strategic planning.