Pupil Premium Policy 2026-2027

Published:	**Nov 2026**
Governor Lead:	**Curriculum Committee**
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	**Sidrah Iqbal**
Status & Review Cycle:	**Statutory & Annually**
Last Review Date:	**Oct 2026**
Next Review Date:	**Oct 2027**
Number on roll (% Eligible):	**138 (Jan 26 census) of 803 (17.2%)**
Pupil Premium Grant:	**£156,900 (PPG) - £2,280.34** (overspend from 25/26 and absorbed by Gag) = **£156,900**

This policy details how NCS manages the extra funding received from central government to improve educational outcomes for pupils who are identified as disadvantaged. The methods for raising the attainment and potential of all disadvantaged pupils are developed using strategies from the Education Endowment Foundation's Tool Kit.

All staff promote the principles of the plan and policy and are passionate and purposeful to deliver the highest achievements and supporting ambition. We utilise academic, behaviour, and character attitudes, and progress data to diagnose needs and match likely solutions. This is also sharpened by conversations with individual pupils their families. All spending strategies are informed by research evidence, discussions with professionals, and key performance data which are rooted in removing the barriers to educational participation and motivation. We recognise the best understanding is through engaging with the pupil, their family, and the information which is built on the caring relationships with staff and support agencies. The current three-year policy began in 2024/25. Its annual plans seek to enhance the performance of disadvantaged pupils over that period.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-effective-use-and-accountability

A school cannot address all the societal and economic factors generating disadvantage to pupils' opportunities and development. However, North Cestrian aims to enable pupils with the Cestrian Way ABC which champions:

- Raising the feeling of belonging and inclusivity at North Cestrian, engaging in all aspects of school life
- The quality of the relationship between disadvantaged pupils, the Pupil Premium Champion, their teachers-tutors-teaching assistants, and their peers and buddies.
- Giving access to high-quality teaching and learning adaptive to the written and verbal needs of learners (teachers, teacher assistants, and pupils) to enhance the relationship with learning and Cestrian ABC ethos
- Professional development and coaching for staff to support the implementation of the policy and plan strategies.
- Recruitment and retention of staff with excellent evidence of working with disadvantaged cohorts
- Technology and resources which support learning
- One-to-one, small group, and peer buddies in all key performance areas (teachers, teacher assistants, and pupils)
- Performance in language, literacy, and numeracy (English, Maths, and Reading)
- Extending school time (including school day and non-school day workshops)
- Supporting pupils social, emotional, and behavioural needs, Mental Health, Wellbeing, Welfare, Safeguarding and RSHE
- High attendance and extra-curricular attendance
- Meal provision (inc. breakfasts, break-time fruit, free school meals, hydration and refuelling for extra-curricular focus)
- Communicating with, and supporting, parents
- Passports to diagnose and support needs and access to the Maths, Reading, and not yet secure grade 4 interventions
- An ambitious curriculum with the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life
- Preparing pupils for transitions in education, careers, and a rich and fulfilling life as an active member of society
- Supporting siblings and a sensitivity to multigenerational impacts
- Priority invites (email then phone) to all workshops, parents' information/consultation evenings, school events
- A keen awareness of other cohort indicators like ability, SEN, Ethnicity, language, the home environment, adversity in childhood (CIN, social worker contact, young carers) and transient pupils. Other short-term acute disadvantages.

Eligibility

In 2026-2027, the projected grant to North Cestrian School is £156,900 (138 pupils at the January 2026 Census, 17.2% of the school roll). This grant funding is in addition to the School's Delegated Budget. Eligibility is decided by central government:

Rates for Eligible Pupils Disadvantaged pupils	
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).	£1,100 £955
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	£2,690
Children who are looked after by the local authority	£2,690
Service pupil premium (SPP)	£360

Eligibility will be confirmed by NCS cross-referencing the school census with the Free School Meals Eligibility Administration system. 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. It can be used for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils. **(DFE, 2026)** The grant funding is personalised as much as possible (both in the diagnosis of needs and in the meeting of those needs). We believe it is right that we use the PPG provision to reduce barriers to learning, in a fair and proportionate manner. Thereby, any pupil may be deemed as disadvantaged in a certain regard and should be able to benefit from the fund but without direct eligibility. The required 'self-contribution' may be more than an eligible pupil.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, there is two categories of Free School Meals (FSM):

- Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing £7,400 income threshold
- Expanded FSM, which will apply to meals only, covering pupils who do not qualify for Targeted FSM, but who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit

Following the expansion of FSM, only pupils eligible for Targeted FSM will be part of the Ever 6 FSM cohort. This means that pupils who become eligible for FSM for the first time through the new Expanded FSM category will not attract pupil premium funding.

Intent:

Roles and Responsibilities

Champion	Working with and for pupils, ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibility and techniques used to adapt Cestrian Way ABC education, quality assurance, leading on the termly review of plan and policy.
Governors Committee	To monitor and assist in the identification of all aspects of the policy and plan, quality assuring spend impact. Compliance with legislation, support and challenge of successful implementation of the Policy and Plan, monitors data and sign off on the Plan and Review (October).
Data Lead	To provide data analysis of achievement gaps and progress
Finance Planning Manager	Ensure that all pupils in the census are screened for eligibility, tracking the spending of the PPG both across the tiers and by individual.
Teachers/LSAs	Responsibility for delivering the adaptive features of the policy and plan
Parents	Support for their child's Cestrian Way ABC engagement
Headmaster	Overall responsibility for the implementation and impact of the Policy and Plan

Challenges:

Tier 1: Cestrian Academic - including:
- Developing effective Prep, revision, the 5 Attitude to Learning qualities. Including better acknowledgement, marking, pupil feel their work has been valued, guidance for parents on the clear and specific personalised feedback.
- At least maintain the ability set on entry of Disadvantaged pupils
- Support for literacy (oral language, phonics, reading comprehension), numeracy, digital technology
- Small group tuition, LSAs, and peer mentoring (inc. all ABC aspects)
- Excellent remote learning and catch-up learning

Tier 2: Cestrian Behaviour – including:

- Developing good attendance and punctuality (including remote learning and catch-up learning) (Against The Odds Social Mobility Commission, 2021: "A school's absence rate is the strongest predictive factor of the progress made by its pupil premium students, but in most schools, it is only a minor focus of pupil premium policy."
- Clear systems of support (including briefings, assemblies, the learning journal, staff working with the pupil)
- Behaviour for learning (including behaviour interventions, alternative provision, social emotional, mental health support).

Tier 3: Cestrian Character - *Supporting wider opportunities.* Against The Odds Social Mobility Commission, 2021: "Where pupil premium students show exceptional progress, we estimate that around threequarters of the schools have contextual advantages. These 'hidden resources' are not easy to identify from standard school data. They include historically strong reputations, high levels of parental engagement, and active alumni networks. Our estimates suggest that 15-20% of mainstream state secondary schools in England fall into this category."
Research from the University of Birmingham has found that schools recognised for their character education provision show stronger academic progress.

Including:

- extra-curricular participation (inc. Prep Club)
- free breakfasts (inc. ABC support and peer mentoring)
- extending school time
- school trips
- Cultural Capital and Character Development (We have furthered this strategy since 2020 – "Schools are increasingly likely to spend the pupil premium on initiatives aimed at boosting students' cultural capital". Against The Odds Social Mobility Commission, 2021.)
- Careers Education
- Reading strategies (including library resources)
- Rewards that further the academic, behaviour or character development
- Enhancing parental support (including education workshops, parents' evening, support meetings and generally
- ensuring that parents can engage with school at every appropriate opportunity
- Engaging with parents and pupils as early as possible at primary school

Whole School Top Slice (Tier link to plan is Tier 0)

PP Champion to lead intervention, inset and monitor progress. (T1, T2 + T3)	£41,758
Student Services Personnel (T2 + T3) (20%)	£6,167
PP Teaching Assistant (T1)	£23,106
Inclusion Strategy Support	£5,000.00
Speech and Language Intervention Leader	£33,800
Spare ingredients for pupils to ensure full access to Food Technology (T1)	£200.00
Additional Parents' Information Evening and Parents' Consultation Event for Disadvantaged Pupils (including opening building, staffing, and resources)	£1,000
Inclusion Manager: (20%) (T2)	£10,361.80
Online Free School Meals Checker (Secondary): (T3)	£1,040
Hay Day Contribution	£2,400
Total	£124,833.20
Remainder for Variable Tiers	£32,066.80

Further details on the rationale, how the school intends to spend the PPG, along with the annual evidence of impact and a review are found in the PP Plan and Expenditure and Impact Review on the school website.

Intended Outcomes:

An annual report in October evaluates the effectiveness of each intervention from the previous academic year in terms of improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in comparison with the national average for non-disadvantaged pupils and, as necessary, modifies interventions planned for the current academic year. Judgments will be made considering cost and level of resultant progress on a value for money basis especially in comparison with other interventions. However, in line with the sustainable effective impact the grant looks to foster, a fuller review will be made every three years.