



The Pupil Premium 2017 - 2018

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their wealthier peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most. In most cases the Pupil Premium is allocated to schools and is clearly identifiable. It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.

At Virginia Primary School 48% of our children are eligible for free school meals. However, the majority of our families are on low incomes. Therefore, most of our pupil premium allocation is used for the benefit of pupils across the school. That said, we consistently monitor the progress of our PP children and we allocate specific funding as appropriate to ensure inequalities are robustly addressed through a range of learning programmes.

At Virginia Primary School, we strongly believe that an enriched curriculum that engages and motivates children has a profound impact on achievement and attainment. We believe that it has this impact because of the confidence and self-esteem it fosters. Therefore, we have allocated a percentage of our pupil premium to fund learning opportunities that develop and challenge our children in this way. We balance this with ensuring that we provide high quality targeted learning support for children across the school so that we are continually narrowing the progress and attainment gap. We recognise that there has been a raise in expectations through the new curriculum so ensuring our teachers have an excellent subject knowledge is also an area of spending through expert consultants.

The following is a summary of how and why we have allocated our funds:

- Our adventure learning programme means that children are challenged from reception upwards to explore our world and see the possibilities for their own future travel and exploration. Each experience is carefully planned to address aspects of the PSHE curriculum and to embody our values. It gives children a real boost in confidence and self-esteem which has been shown to impact directly on their academic achievement.
- Our ICT, science and curriculum consultant works closely with all staff to ensure that the learning opportunities we provide reflect the changing world around us and have a local, national and global dimension. She also develops teacher's subject knowledge and skills in ICT and science ensuring the provision of high quality learning and teaching for all. She has supported us in the development of our curriculum to include the requirements of the new National Curriculum.
- We recognise that emotional well-being and good mental health is vital for our children to learn and grow. Therefore, we have developed a programme of support for targeted children using pupil premium funding to employ a school counsellor for half a day a week. This year we have also started to train one of our HLTAs as an emotional literacy support assistant. This will enable her to work with individuals and groups of children that are of concern but do not yet require intensive therapeutic support. So far we have identified that 90% of children needing such support are also entitled to pupil premium funding.
- Learning music has long been shown to develop thinking skills and is a big part of our curriculum throughout the school. This includes whole class violin for two years and music teaching for all age groups. We provide extra tuition for gifted and talented pupils
- to develop their skills as well as an after school keyboard club. Our music teacher also provides an under-fives session for children and parents.



- Our lunchtime intervention programmes are for children identified through termly pupil progress meetings and half termly class team meetings. Each programme runs for six weeks (one weekly session per programme) with clear learning outcomes. Not only are they designed to give children extra support but also to challenge our gifted children. The pupil premium has meant we can employ extra playground staff to free up higher level teaching assistants to deliver these programmes. It also means that children do not miss any of their class times.
- We have also employed two high level teaching assistants to deliver interventions and to provide support in class for targeted groups.
- Early intervention in the foundation stage is vital for children to be ready for transition and so they are not continually trying to 'catch up'. We have found that there are lengthy waiting lists once a child has been referred for a speech and language programme. Therefore, we have employed our own part time speech and language worker to ensure that children get support early on. The speech and language worker also runs a six week programme in the autumn term for year 1 as well as training and supporting HLTAs to work with targeted children.
- We also provide early intervention in the form of under-fives sessions in our Welcome Space. We target our pupil premium and vulnerable families and we have found that this helps to prepare children for starting school. This has been recognised as a focus across Tower Hamlets in the coming year. Families who attended the programme last year have made better progress than those who have not – we have therefore expanded our provision for the coming year.

Total pupil premium amount for 2017 – 2018: £126,720.00 Area	Cost
Music	£15,000
Adventure learning	£25,000
HLTAs - early years support/under-fives sessions and intervention programmes across the school	£55,820.00
School counsellor	£5,500
Emotional Literacy Support Assistant	£4,400.00
ICT/science/curriculum consultant	£15,000
Speech and language	£6,000

Total: £126,720.00

The impact of the pupil premium is evaluated at the end of each academic year through the analysis of data for children on free school meals. The evaluation for 2016 -2017 can be found on the website under 'learning'.