

Dane Court Grammar School

PUPIL PREMIUM 2021-2022

Overview

The Pupil Premium is a grant allocated to schools by the Government on the basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years. In addition, schools receive funding for Looked After Children (LAC) and post-LAC children. Schools also receive funding to support the children of service personnel. The aim of the Pupil Premium is to address the inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

Context

For the academic year 2019-2020, the overall Pupil Premium Progress 8 score was -0.05, compared to +0.14 for the full cohort. This demonstrates that at present our Pupil Premium students are underperforming in comparison to their peers. Closing this attainment gap is a key whole school priority.

At Dane Court Grammar School, the number of pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding in the 2021-2022 academic year is approximately 171, this is 13% of the school population. The funding for 2020-2021 financial year is £140820.

Objectives

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the attainment gaps within our cohort. At Dane Court Grammar School we endeavour to provide all students with a well rounded educational experience which facilitates and supports every individual in achieving without limits regardless of their background. We appreciate that education has the potential to positively change lives and that we are responsible for providing this for all students.

Dane Court Grammar School will ensure funding received is used effectively and economically in order to provide the greatest impact to students specifically eligible for the Pupil Premium. We will ensure that the additional funding is directed to those students who are in greatest need; in particular those who have previously under-achieved. All students will be supported in order to maximise their personal potential and academic achievement.

How we will use the Pupil Premium

Dane Court Grammar School assesses potential barriers to achievement on a personal basis for each individual student. In order to ensure this has the greatest effect we will:

- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose.
- Use evidence from research on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these to meet the specific needs of our students.

- Clearly report how we have used the Pupil Premium, ensuring this information is accessible to all stakeholders.
- Encourage uptake of FSM by ensuring all members of our community are aware of the support available. We will work closely with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner which reflects our recognition of the vital role that they play in the lives of their children.
- Be mindful of the fact that receipt of Pupil Premium does not equate with students being considered as 'low ability' because of their social circumstances. We recognise the importance of all students being seen as individuals and not as a homogenous group with the same needs.
- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium.
- Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment. In addition, we will use high quality interventions to assist students who need additional support beyond that provided within the classroom setting.
- Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups to ensure students receive support when it is deemed appropriate.

Pupil Premium Key Focus Areas:

At Dane Court Grammar School, we have identified the following as key focus areas.

- **Progress:** Using data to measure whether a student is progressing in line with their minimum target grades (MTGs). Striving to close the gap between the attainment of Pupil Premium students in comparison to their peers.
- **Attendance:** Attendance and attainment are directly connected. An attendance in excess of 95% is the expected level of attendance for every student.
- **Pastoral Support:** Communications between form tutors and heads of year, senior teams and class teachers means that effective and targeted support can be put in place for each pupil premium student.
- **Behaviour:** Ensuring all students follow our behaviour for learning policy so that maximum opportunities are made for all.

Dane Court Grammar School identifies possible barriers to achievement for each individual student. Consequently, the funding provided will be used primarily for:

- Assistance with the costs of curriculum activities
- Purchase of course materials and equipment
- Purchase of revision materials
- Pastoral support
- Subject-specific intervention
- SEN support

We recognise that not all students who are eligible for Pupil Premium will be socially disadvantaged or underachieving. Therefore, we reserve the right to allocate Pupil Premium funding to support any groups of students, who are identified as being 'disadvantaged'.

Monitoring of Pupil Premium students

The Head, Leadership Team and Pupil Premium Strategy Leader are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure all staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities in order to maximise pupils' progress and attainment. We expect all members of our school community to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps of our students.

Teaching and support staff will maintain the highest expectations of all students whilst acknowledging that disadvantage of circumstance does not equate to 'low ability'. All staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos within Dane Court in order to enable students from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.

The main target for this funding is to continue to improve progress, attainment and achievement in the core subjects and to continue to remove barriers to learning for individual pupil premium students.

In line with the key focus areas identified previously, we will monitor the impact of these strategies as follows.

- **Progress:** This is measured using data to illustrate whether a student is progressing in line with or achieving their minimum target grades. Targeted interventions will be utilised when appropriate.
- **Attendance:** This will be monitored by the attendance officer. Heads of House and form mentors will follow this up with students where necessary, involving parents and carers as required.
- **Pastoral Support:** This allows access for the students to all areas of the curriculum and extracurricular activities. Communication between all staff and home means that targeted support systems are in place when requested and no child is excluded from any extra curricular activities due to financial constraints.
- **Behaviour:** The school has a clearly defined behaviour for learning policy which is enforced daily with appropriate rewards and sanctions. This is vital in maintaining excellent standards of teaching and learning in classrooms for all students.

Our Commitment

At Dane Court Grammar School we develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. We encourage our students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.