



Lowther Primary School: Pupil Premium Strategy

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is government funding for pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) as of January Census, or at any time in the previous six years, as well as pupils who have been looked after by the local authority for at least one day.

Eligibility for FSM should not be confused with the government's universal meal service for all children in EYFS and KS1 (4-7 year olds in school) regardless of economic circumstances. In 2019 the grant for eligible pupils is £1320 per pupil (£2300 for Looked After Children and £300 for service children)

The school uses the funds for additional provision to raise progress and attainment for the most vulnerable pupils. These include: English and Maths booster classes with teachers; interventions and targeted support with teaching assistants including social skills, ELSA, trips and after school activities, free breakfast club for children who may not otherwise eat well at the start of the day. This also enables a calm, sociable, positive environment in preparation for the school day. Assistance is offered to support persistent absentees to get to school (e.g. phone calls to offer assistance in the morning, collecting children from home if necessary, along with close work with the Education Welfare Officer).

The progress of every single child from individual starting points is closely tracked and records are kept to monitor impact of interventions in place to overcome individual barriers to learning. At Lowther Primary School our numbers of children eligible for the PPG are generally higher than the local average (LB Richmond) and broadly in line with the national average. In 2019/20 14% of our pupils were eligible. Numbers have dropped over the last three years from 21% to 19%. to 14%. The National average for PPG is 15.4% (and is increasing). Progress data show all of our pupils do well, irrespective of their eligibility for the grant.

We believe that the barriers to learning experienced by children eligible for the grant can include low self-esteem, limited access to enriching experiences, lack of access to pre-school activities, no "space" of their own (if in crowded living conditions or living in families where some children or adults have special needs or where the child may be a carer) poor or inadequate diet, poor sleep quality due to inadequate housing or sleeping facilities, emotional stress caused by deprivation, poor attendance due to child or parent poor health, limited language skills/vocabulary. Adopted children and children in care may experience a range of barriers, often emotional, due to attachment disorders or early trauma.

We monitor the confidence and attitudes to learning and school experience and the impact of our interventions. We ensure all children have access to extra-curricular activities to enrich their lives and that they take part in workshops and trips where a cost is involved. We have developed an exciting and inclusive curriculum with a focus on promoting positive mental health through PATHs. We offer breakfast club and after school club where a healthy snack is provided in addition to the free school meal at lunch time to ensure children have an adequate diet. We target a range of interventions to support learning with the aim to accelerate progress and enable children from lower starting points to diminish the difference.

Summary of Lowther's intent for use of the Pupil premium grant: The targeted and strategic use of pupil premium will support us in enabling every pupil to reach their full potential by:

- Assuring the best possible learning experiences in the classroom
- Having targeted support for pupils with vulnerable attendance
- To close the gap in attainment for PP pupils in core subjects.
- To improve independence and develop social skills and mental well-being
- To provide opportunities to develop potential and participate in all aspects of school life

Lowther