

Alec Reed Academy: Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year's spending of pupil premium had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Alec Reed Academy
Number of pupils in school	1302
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	48.16%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2025/2026 to 2027/2028
Date this statement was published	October 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	July 2026
Statement authorised by	Phil Cosby Principal / CEO
Pupil premium lead	Anne Franklin (Primary) Claudia Lashmore-Bennett (Secondary)
Governor / Trustee lead	Louise Prince

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year Primary Phase	£322,695
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year Secondary Phase	£416,025
Service Child Pupil premium allocation	£350
Post LAC Pupil premium allocation	£15,780
Total budget for this academic year	£754,850

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

At Alec Reed Academy our intention is that all pupils, irrespective of their socio-economic background or the challenges they face, make good progress and achieve high attainment across the curriculum. We recognise that with an IDACI score of 6645/32844, a multiple deprivation decile of 3 and an income score of 0.194 we need to have maximising the impact of our Pupil Premium money at the forefront of our planning.

The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils whose lives are often more complex and challenging than those of their peers, especially the most vulnerable pupils, such as those who have a social worker and are young carers. The aim is to level the playing field by providing opportunities that help close the gaps in learning that may have developed. At the heart of this work is a drive to provide excellent support staff that can support these pupils both educationally and emotionally so that their time in school can be as impactful as possible.

Although specifically focused on supporting our disadvantaged learners the high-quality teaching that is at the heart of our approach, will also benefit the non-disadvantaged pupils in our school. The strategy set out below is integral to wider school plans for education recovery,

Our approach will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment, not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. The approaches we have adopted complement each other to help pupils excel. To ensure they are effective we will:

- ensure disadvantaged pupils are challenged in the work that they're set
- use in-house data to diagnose the current gaps, issues and barriers for learning
- act early to intervene at the point that need is identified
- adopt a whole school approach in which all staff take responsibility for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes and raise expectations of what they can achieve
- ensure disadvantaged pupils have access to interventions and enrichment activities and enhance their cultural capital and narrow the attainment gap

Challenges

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

Challenge	Detail of challenge
1	Reading Age and Comprehension Data, assessments and in class observations highlight a significant concern related to the number of pupils that have a reading age two or more years below their chronological age. This barrier to learning is significantly higher within the most disadvantaged pupils. A high Literacy rate is a strong predictor of future success
2	Attendance Our attendance data shows that disadvantaged pupils are more likely to be absent than non-disadvantaged. This absenteeism is negatively impacting disadvantaged pupils' progress. We must reduce this gap and ensure that disadvantaged pupil's attendance is in line with the rest of the school community.
3	Progress at and through the Key Stages Current data show that there are gaps between the expected outcomes for the disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils remain prominent and more needs to be done to reduce them. This includes adapting the curriculum to provide higher levels of engagement and success.
4	Pupil Well Being It is also evident from assessments, data and discussions with families and external agencies that many pupils are going through emotional turmoil and cases of anxiety, depression (diagnosed by medical professionals) and low self-esteem are markedly increased. These are especially prominent amongst the disadvantaged whose concerns regarding the cost-of-living crises are exasperated. A lack of well-being is often linked to poor attendance at school and has a direct correlation on lost learning and future prospects.
5	Enhancing out of school hours education/study Investigations have shown that there is a causal link between disadvantaged underachievement and a lack of resources and skills to work successfully outside of normal school hours.
6	Close the gaps in lost learning Observations suggest many lower attaining disadvantaged pupils lack metacognitive / self-regulation strategies when faced with challenging tasks, notably in their monitoring and evaluation of their answers. This is indicated across the curriculum, but particularly in maths and science.

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
Reading Age and Comprehension	Reduce the gaps in reading ages, especially for the disadvantaged. Fewer disadvantaged pupils have a gap of more than two years between their reading and chronological age. Library is being used by more disadvantaged pupils. Accelerated Reader Reading scheme is fully embedded within the tutor programme and demonstrates how gaps have narrowed. Reading comprehension tests demonstrate improved comprehension skills among disadvantaged pupils and a smaller disparity between the scores of disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers. Teachers recognise improvement through engagement in lessons and book scrutiny.
Attendance	Gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged are closed. Attendance is more in line with national averages The overall absence rate for all pupils being no more than 4%, and the attendance gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers being reduced by 1%.
Progress at and through the Key Stages/Phases	Attainment gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged are closed. The difference in outcomes within all key measures is narrowed.
Pupil Well Being	Pupil well-being and mental health is improved Fewer cases of emotional turmoil, anxiety and depression being identified. Improved self-esteem for the disadvantaged. Increased confidence in the future, especially related to the process of tests, examinations, assessment and employability. Qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations. A significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils. Parents use of <i>My Child at School</i> to support their child's education is more consistent.

Enhancing out of school hours education/study	Sessions available before and after school that enhance learning. Clubs and activities including a revision room available until 6.00pm on three nights a week. (Secondary) Clubs and activities four nights a week for primary children. Laptops and mentoring programmes available to improve home learning. Homework completion rates across all classes and subjects improves. Aspirational and financial barriers are removed to ensure disadvantaged pupils are always able to fully participate in any event that widens their cultural capital.
Close the gaps in lost learning	Early identification of gaps through impactful assessment. Focus on quality teaching techniques. Improved understanding of the specific needs of pupils. Improved metacognitive and self-regulatory skills among disadvantaged pupils across all subjects. Disadvantaged pupils that are at risk of underachieving in EMS are provided with additional support. Disadvantaged pupils are more able to monitor and regulate their own learning.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium this academic year to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: **£500,000**

Activity	Brief summary of strategy	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Senior members of staff with allotted time to oversee provisions and interventions in place across each phase.	Regular student/pupil progress meetings with follow up actions to track the progress of disadvantaged students/pupils compared with all. Raised awareness of disadvantaged students/pupils with teaching staff. Particular strategies and interventions to raise achievement of disadvantaged groups.	Regular, testing and appropriate assessment can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and difficulties of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction: Standardised tests Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Access to a Speech and language therapist.	Students/pupils receive specialist support to increase the speed of travel towards written and spoken fluency in English. Ensure that children in both phases get access to a fully qualified and trained therapist.	Acquiring disciplinary literacy is key for students/pupils as they learn new, more complex concepts in each subject: Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools	1, 4,
Access to a full time, on site, counsellor.	Pupils are supported with emotional and mental health issues that create barriers to their learning and personal development.	EEF suggests that a focus on well-being has a direct affect on achievement, communication and independence.	4
Full time SaFE Workers employed across the Primary and Secondary Phases	Students/pupils have direct access to support ensuring they are able to function well and learn effectively. Parental contact is easier to maintain and relationships built with PP families.	Reading comprehension, vocabulary and other literacy skills are heavily linked with attainment in maths and English: word-gap.pdf (oup.com.cn)	2, 4
Additional Dedicated Teaching Assistants employed to ensure that PP students with SEND are able to fully access and engage with in class learning	Improved levels of attainment for PP students/pupils with SEND. Vulnerable learners that present with complex barriers to learning are supported. Increased confidence in the classroom. Support is valued and well received.	There is evidence to suggest that CBT can have a high impact on risk behaviours and behavioural difficulties: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy - Youth Endowment Fund EIF's report on adolescent mental health found good evidence that CBT interventions support young people's social and emotional skills and can reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression:	1, 3, 4, 6

		Adolescent mental health: A systematic review on the effectiveness of school-based interventions Early Intervention Foundation (eif.org.uk)	
A focus on CPD to further enhance the quality of teaching across the Academy. The quality of teaching has the biggest impact on the attainment of disadvantaged students/pupils.	Clear leadership for the quality of teaching and learning and well managed strategies to track the performance of teaching staff and ensure they have the tools to be successful in the classroom. Improve intervention strategies specifically targeted to raise the attainment of disadvantaged students/pupils.	Teaching metacognitive strategies to pupils can be an inexpensive method to help pupils become more independent learners. There is particularly strong evidence that it can have a positive impact on attainment: Metacognition and self-regulation Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1, 3, 5, 6

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

Budgeted cost: **£100.000**

Activity		Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Forest School sessions (outside provider) for students/pupils who have challenges in accessing the curriculum.	Forest school is a learner centred led approach to education which suits students/pupils who find a traditional curriculum difficult to access. Students/pupils have the opportunity to contextualise their learning in contexts outside of the classroom, be exposed to experiences that show them how to lead a healthier lifestyle. Students/pupils have the opportunity to gain confidence and improve their self-esteem.	Evaluative research has shown that Forest Schools make a difference in the following ways: Confidence: children had the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence Social skills: children gained increased awareness of the consequences of their actions on peers through team activities such as sharing tools and participating in play Communication: language development was prompted by the children's sensory experiences Motivation: the woodland tended to fascinate the children, and they developed a keenness to participate and the ability to concentrate over longer periods of time Physical skills: these improvements were characterised by the development of physical stamina and gross and fine motor skills Knowledge and understanding: the children developed an interest in the natural surroundings and respect for the environment.	3, 4, 5, 6

Intervention programs to provide tailored support for students falling below expected attainment in literacy and numeracy.	Accelerated Reading programme across Years 3 – 8. Investment in upgrading library and its resources. Booster sessions in literacy for KS1/KS2/KS3 students including Phonics Form time reading programme in secondary which includes key word and subject specific knowledge (cultural capital). TA/Class Worker tutoring students not making expected progress.	Reading comprehension strategies can have a positive impact on pupils' ability to understand a text, and this is particularly the case when interventions are delivered over a shorter timespan: Reading comprehension strategies Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	1, 3, 6
Programme of additional booster classes and opportunities such as events, trips, visits and enrichment activities (including those for MABLE) run outside the normal school timetable. Opportunities are targeted at underachieving PP students/pupils to improve attainment and aspiration towards target grades as well as enhancing pupils' cultural capital	Opportunities for students/pupils outside of the classroom increased. After school homework club available (secondary). Revision room available for exam groups that find it challenging to work at home. Open until 6.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. (secondary) Additional classes and revision sessions are provided at weekends and in selected school holidays. Targeted pre-school literacy intervention for disadvantaged children and those with reading ages two years below their chronological age (includes breakfast). Gaps in cultural capital knowledge and understanding are identified and trips and visits used to fill them.	The Sutton Trust identify the importance of an effective programme of diverse extra curricular activities that motivate and inspire PP students. It is especially important where the activities provide the student with experiences that they would not normally have. The level of support provided in these programmes would also support the completion of homework for PP pupils, which in turn would decrease the number of behaviour points received for homework related issues. EEF - Homework (High Impact/Low Cost)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6
Mentoring of vulnerable students including learning mentors, attendance welfare, educational psychologist and peer mentors.	Student's well-being, academic progress, attendance and stress management is improved impacting positively on student progress. Increased numbers of PP students being mentored and trained as mentors.	Mentoring has a moderate impact according to the Sutton Trust. It helps to develop relationships and skill and inspires students to achieve the very best they are capable of. It can be effective for both the mentor and mentee and support mental well being.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6
Provide additional classroom based catch up time and extended learning opportunities.	Early start for primary at 8.15am Taught day extended for Year 11 to provide additional hour of science Maths and English.	Quality Teaching has the highest impact on driving standards. This is best delivered by the member of staff that has a clear understanding of the needs of the children.	3, 5, 6
Additional learning opportunities during and beyond the school day.	Specifically, to target the development of core skills for primary children including reading and writing and to move KS4 pupils to Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths. These are critical in ensuring children are ready for the next stage of their educational journey. It improves life chances and employability.	Additional support targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind, both one-to-one:	3, 5, 6

Access to homework study room at the start and end of the school day.	Breakfast homework club available in the morning for KS3 and 4 in the library and IT1 Soft start at 8.15am in the Primary. These help to close gaps in lost learning in the core subjects.	EEF, Rising Stars and 'Closing the Reading Gap' have all highlighted the need for literacy and numeracy to be addressed. 1 in 4 PP students are below expected levels nationally with students retaining 1.4 million extra words in their vocabulary if students read daily.	3, 5, 6
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Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour and wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: **£100,000**

Activity		Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Rewards and intervention for attendance. Praise programme, first day absence calls, high priority in all Line Management meetings.	Refine working procedures to enable system to work more efficiently and have a greater impact on pupils most at risk.	Research into intrinsic and extrinsic motivation reflects that "promotion-focussed individuals not only experience higher interest in boring tasks but also make the task more interesting." (Smith et al., 2009)	2, 4, 5, 6
Increased use of social media to communicate 'good news'. MABLE (including MABLE PP) Parent Meeting. Parents Evenings. Parent Focus Groups. Parent Social Events. My Child AT School.	The learning of PP students is well-supported by their parents/carers. Parent/Carers have positive relationships with the Academy.	Parental engagement has a large and positive impact on children's learning. It is therefore a priority to identify interventions that are effective in supporting parental involvement, particularly those parents who are either not significantly involved in their children's education or who are not involved at all. DfE Review of best practice in parental engagement	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6
Provide PP students /pupils who need it with basic resources and equipment. Revision resources available: flashcards; highlighters; printed resources; exam packs. Uniform and PE subsidies.	Students/pupils have the essential uniform and equipment needed to participate in the Academy community and to learn effectively. Resources are provided to support home learning.	If disadvantaged students are not provided with the equipment and resources to enable them to access the curriculum at the same pace as their peers then the gap between outcomes is likely to grow. SEN support: A rapid evidence assessment	1, 3, 4, 6
Targeting and visiting students who have low attendance/punctuality/poor behaviour at primary school. Identifying students who are not secondary ready/pri-	Students/pupils who are not secondary ready/primary ready catch up quickly. Barriers to learning quickly identified and monitored and interventions are put in place.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced persistent absence levels. Improving School Attendance	1, 2, 3,

mary ready. Handover information meetings- central spread sheet of useful contextual information.			
Provide high quality PSHCE provision on a range of topics suitable for each year group. Specifically with the intention of widening children's knowledge and understanding of key PSHCE issues, so they are fully prepared for adult life.	Primary – Half termly Dazzle Days / Secondary - Six drop down days. Over the course of the academic year these provide high quality targeted PSHCE education that covers specific topics in greater detail, often with the support of guest speakers and presenters. These days are organised and delivered to ensure that the most disadvantaged are at the forefront of our mind.	The EEF case study highlights the need to put the focus on the specific gap and not on the whole cohort. The targeted approach focuses on what specific academic support is needed to close gaps most effectively.	2, 4, 5, 6
Connexions (careers) interviews/group seminars for students in key transition phases and PP students in KS3 and KS4 who are below targets.	Students have the opportunity to contextualise their learning in the working world and start making future plans. Connexions met with all PP Year 11 pupils regularly and a specific programme put in place for those at risk of NEET.	A focus on the world of work has a direct impact as it links to the third tier of the EEF recommended approach of wider strategies that can make a difference to motivation and attitudes to learning. Careers Strategy: making the most of everyone's skills and talents	3, 4, 5,6
Subsidise the cost of music lessons for PP students taking Music as a GCSE subject and for Music SABLE PP students. Also subsidise the cost for PP children in Primary that wish to learn an instrument.	Students are the given the opportunity to learn an instrument and deepen their understanding of music. Wider impact of music learning on numeracy skills.	There's no doubt that a progressive and sustained music curriculum is a vital component of the inclusion mix. Creative and musical pastimes are core to how young people spend their time, interact with others, and have fun. Youth Music: The Sound of the Next Generation	4, 5
Based on experience, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside 'The Hardship Fund' to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been recognised.			

Total budgeted cost: £700,000

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Examination outcomes for 2025 suggest that there is still significant gaps between the performance of disadvantaged pupils and their peers in all phases. Plans have been put in place with the new year 11 to ensure that the impact of the additional hour of teaching in English, Maths and Science is as impactful as possible and additional specialist teaching is being provided to disadvantaged pupils during form period.

Disadvantaged pupils sometimes lack the independent skills to complete homework and do not have suitable places to work in the evening. This creates an additional barrier to their learning. We are intending to provide more support in developing these skills both in house and through outside agencies. In the secondary phase this will include the use of our Drop Down Days.

Attendance figures are improving but there is a clear link between disadvantaged children and poor attendance. This is magnified further when you consider persistent absence. The Home Attendance Liaison Officer (HALO) is a key role in improving these figures and the attendance team is now a more cohesive unit. Requests for term time holiday are always denied and parents fined if they do go ahead and make the booking.

Attendance 2024 – 2025

Primary Phase 92.21% - national figure 94.5%

Secondary Phase 90.34% - national figure 91.2%

Number of pupils being persistently absent

Primary Phase – 131 Secondary Phase – 252

We continue to work hard to improve the arrangements around transition, especially for those that are disadvantaged. Children are visited in their primary schools and every effort is made to ensure we receive as much information around the wellbeing and safeguarding of each individual. We fast track pupils for testing where we feel that this is important and beneficial for their progress. We continue to have concerns regarding the fact that some children joining nursery and reception are not 'school' ready and have gaps in their social development.

During the last academic year funding was spent in the following areas;

Wellbeing support was provided for all pupils, and targeted interventions put in place as required.

Pupils across the secondary phase were given the opportunity to work with outside agencies that could develop their personal skills and better prepare them for the world of work.

PP pupils were provided with additional learning resources at KS2, KS4 and KS5 to including study guides and materials to support revision and examination preparation.

The programme of curriculum enrichment on Drop Down Days was enhanced to provide opportunities for key aspects of the wider curriculum such as PSHCE and careers to be covered in greater depth. Through the Primary Phase this programme of curriculum enrichment was delivered through half termly Dazzle Days for all primary pupils.

Student voice was extended to provide opportunities for valuable discussion that could inform decision making.

Our rewards systems were further enhanced following pupil feedback.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
Mentoring	Teach First
Study Skills Programme	Elevate Education
Careers advice	Connexions
Online resources	For example - Oak National Academy Ed Tutor Academy 21
External Provision	Behaviour Support College placements Specialist course provision at EAP.