

# Pupil premium strategy statement 2025-26

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	Walthamstow Academy
Number of pupils in school	1105
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	42%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers ( <b>3 year plans are recommended</b> )	2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28
Date this statement was published	September 2026
1 <sup>st</sup> Date on which it has been reviewed	September 2025
Statement authorised by	Emma Skae, Principal
Pupil premium lead	Andrea Campbell, Vice Principal
Governor / Trustee lead	Leon French, Chair of Local Governing Body

## Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£411,725
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
<b>Total budget for this academic year</b>	<b>£411,725</b>

# Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

## Statement of intent

At Walthamstow Academy, a core part of our moral purpose is to ensure that all students have no barriers to their achievement. We seek the 'Best in Everyone'.

We aim for equity in every aspect of school life. Academic achievement and progress, extracurricular participation, attendance at school, health and well-being should be achievable for all.

Through analysis of our data, we know that at Walthamstow Academy, without additional support and intervention, students who are entitled to the Pupil Premium (PP) attain less, make less progress, have lower attendance, complete less homework, have lower reading ages, need more pastoral support and take advantage of fewer extra-curricular opportunities than their peers.

We expect our pupil premium strategy to address this through strategic group and individual intervention, with the right students, in the right way, at the right time.

## Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1. Attendance	Our data evidences that PP students attend school less than their peers and that the gap increases as students get older. PP attendance 2024-25 was 91.6%. Non PP attendance 2024-25 was 94.1%
2. Literacy	Disadvantaged pupils in Key Stage 3 have lower levels of reading comprehension than their peers. This risks having a negative impact on their progress in all subjects and could potentially limit the extent to which they can access the curriculum.
3. Homework	Pupil Premium students complete their homework less frequently than non-pupil premium students. Working outside of school is more difficult for these students and they need support with homework.
4. Progress	In 2025 PP students made more progress and attained more than their peers. Last year's Year 11 data showed: PP Progress 8 was 0.62 (unvalidated) Overall Progress 8 was 0.57 (unvalidated) 59% of PP students attained 5+ in English and maths. 61% of non PP students attained 5+ in English and maths. We need to ensure that PP students continue to make more or as much progress as their peers, both in their attainment and their progress.

5. Pastoral and Behaviour support	In 2024-25, PP students raised pastoral and safeguarding concerns disproportionately high compared to their non-PP peers. They also were disproportionately represented in the sanction figures. We need to ensure that our PP students have the pastoral support they need.
6. Extra-curricular provision	We want to have an extra-curricular provision that rivals private schools, with activities days that take our students to theme parks, museums, on residential, abroad and more – but cost is an inhibitor for our PP students.

## 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
1. Pupil Premium students attend school every day	Pupil Premium attendance at least matches or exceeds non-Pupil Premium attendance to school and is above 95%
2. A significant improvement in the literacy of PP students	7.9% Year 7 PP students are stanine 4 or below. 14.4% - Year 8 PP students are stanine 4 or below 13.4% - Year 9 PP students are stanine 4 or below Reading and comprehension tests demonstrate improved vocabulary and comprehension skills among PP students and a smaller disparity between the scores of PP students and their non-PP peers. Teachers should recognise improvement through engagement in lessons and book scrutiny.
3. All PP students are able to access and complete their HW to the best of their ability	Increase in HW completion. Increase in access to homework platforms e.g. Seneca. Reduction in sanctions for lack of HW Increase in rewards for completion and effort for HW. Increase in parental involvement
4. Accelerate progress further so that pupil premium students continue to make more or the same progress as non-pupil premium students.	Y11 (all) outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% 4+ English and Maths</li> <li>• 60% 5+ English and Maths</li> <li>• 27% 7+ English and Maths</li> </ul> All students, including PP students, experience a rich and challenging curriculum. They demonstrate through lessons visits, formative and summative assessment, and the high quality of their work that they are grasping key concepts and developing strong curriculum knowledge especially in English and Maths.
5. Improve the pastoral and behaviour support offered to students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium	Two Additional Pastoral Workers and enhanced Educational Psychology in place to provide support. Deputy Heads of Year have an increased focus on PP students. This results in proportionate referrals across all groups of students

<p>6. PP students take part in a range of activities outside the classroom that give them new experiences and increase their cultural capital.</p>	<p>All Pupil Premium students attendance to trips matches or exceeds non-PP students this year.</p> <p>Pupil Premium attendance to clubs and extra-curricular matches or exceeds non-Pupil Premium attendance</p>
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## Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium funding) **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

### Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £219,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
1. Extra teachers in maths, English, science and KS3 teachers to create smaller class sizes. £185,000	Whilst evidence for limiting class size is mixed nationally, we believe that the way in which we organise our curriculum and teaching groups takes advantage of the opportunities smaller group sizes can offer. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reducing-class-size">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reducing-class-size</a>	4
2. Train all staff on PP strategy, unconscious bias, and teaching adaptations. PP students identified on seating plans. £1,000	High-quality teaching improves pupil outcomes and effective CPD offers a crucial tool to develop teaching quality (EEF). Our CPD offer includes weekly curriculum meetings focusing on teaching and learning pedagogy, deliberate practice sessions (applying the EEF's five mechanisms for developing teacher techniques), leadership development opportunities, and spotlights on our academy priorities. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/using-pupil-premium">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/using-pupil-premium</a>	1,2,3,4,5,6
3. Textbooks for all KS4 students £10,000	We use the textbooks we provide our students with as the basis for much of the homework we set. Providing textbooks ensures that all students have access to the resources they need at home. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework</a>	2, 3, 4
4. New library Books £3,000	Pupil premium students will be involved in choosing new stock and this will be heavily promoted to pupil premium students. We know that involvement in the library and reading appropriately challenging books will increase reading age from previous monitoring data.	2, 3, 6

5. Online homework platforms £10,000	The school uses online homework platforms such as Tassomai, Seneca and UpLearn for students to complete their homework on.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework</a>	3, 4
6. Fund available for staff to bid from £10,000	A small portion of the pupil premium funding will be kept aside for staff to bid for projects. This allows us to react to need as it arises during the academic year.	1,2,3,4, 5, 6

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

Budgeted cost: £72,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
1. 121 tuition for KS4 students in subjects where rates of progress are lower.  £16,000	Our own outcomes, traced since 2018, show a grade up; lift of between +0.25 and +0.40 for students taking part. The EEF considers this an effective intervention.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/one-to-one-tuition">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/one-to-one-tuition</a>	3, 4
2. Part LSA salary to support SEN students' achievement  £30,000	We know that PP SEN students are in particular need of support, we also know that, when LSAs are well-deployed, they improve student progress.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions</a>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3. Intervention programmes on Saturdays and in holidays £10,000	Our intervention programme targets the right students to give them the help they need to fill any gaps in knowledge or skills. Students are often taught in small groups.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition</a>	2, 3, 4

4. Additional literacy programmes  £4,000	The school uses Bedrock Learning and Lexonik to assist students for whom literacy is a barrier for learning. Students are targeted based on performance in a diagnostic reading test.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies</a>	2, 3, 4, 6
5. Staffed homework club after school.  £2,000	The school provides a homework club after school where students can complete their homework on computers, in a quiet and calm space, staffed by an adult. Pupil Premium students who are falling behind on their homework are specifically invited to attend to support their homework completion and progress.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/extending-school-time">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/extending-school-time</a>	2, 3, 4, 6
6. Fund available for staff to bid from  £10,000	A small portion of the pupil premium funding will be kept aside for staff to bid for projects. This allows us to react to need as it arises during the academic year.	1,2,3,4, 5, 6

### Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £120,725

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
1. Additional Assistant Child Protection Officer  £41,725	Our safeguarding team deals with emergencies, but they also spend a great deal of their time undertaking proactive work that improves the wellbeing of students at the school. In 2024 we know that pupil premium students benefited immensely from the extra support.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning</a>	1, 4, 5

2. Additional Pastoral Support Mentor £20,000	Our pastoral team deals with the ever changing needs of our students using both reactive and proactive techniques to improve the wellbeing of students at the school. We know that pupil premium students account for 59% of the suspensions given across the school in 2025. High quality pastoral support improves pupils school experience. Our pastoral support offering includes 121 and group mentoring and support sessions, designated safeguarding support for each key stage and Pupil premium students will be prioritised in referrals and behaviour support.	5
3. Rewards for Pupil Premium students £8,000	Our rewards policy is enjoyed by all of our students and motivates our students to work hard in class, complete homework on time to a good standard, and develop and live our values of ambition, determination and respect. We will use Pupil Premium funding to purchase rewards which will specifically benefit the lives and educational experience of Pupil Premium students in order to motivate them and deepen their love of learning and love of school.	1, 4, 5, 6
4. Extra-curricular so that PP students can attend school trips such as our 'activities days' £20,000	Our clubs and 'activities days' are a central part of school life at Walthamstow Academy. Students bond with each other and with teachers; the days are instrumental in ensuring students feel part of the school community. PP funding ensures all students are able to participate. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/outdoor-adventure-learning">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/outdoor-adventure-learning</a>	1, 6
5. Financial Support e.g. resources, uniform £5,000	Not having money to buy uniform or equipment, a coat or a bag can affect attendance. We want to ensure that we are able to support families to remove all barriers. We have a Walthamstow Academy Store' which stocks supplies for parents to come and take should they need them, for example, toiletries, dried and canned foods, cleaning products.	1, 5, 6
6. Music tuition for PP students £5,000	Participation in arts-based activities has been shown to have a positive impact on attainment across the curriculum. The school runs a well-established music tuition programme and PP funding ensures all students are able to take part. <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/arts-participation">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/arts-participation</a>	4, 5

7. Part TLR of Deputy Heads of Year  £10,000	As with our Assistant Child Protection Officer, having deputy heads of year allows for a broader and more proactive approach to concerns around safeguarding and wellbeing. This particularly benefits pupil premium students.  <a href="https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning">https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/social-and-emotional-learning</a>	1, 5
8. Enhanced Careers Advice Offer  £5,000	The Pupil Premium funding will be used to provide an extra day a week of independent careers and progression advice from an independent careers advisor. This will ensure all Y11 pupil premium students get excellent, one-to-one careers advice this year	4, 5
9. Enhanced Educational Psychologist Support  £6000	We will use Pupil Premium funding to buy support from an educational psychologist that will enhance our existing service provided by Waltham Forest Council. This will address the need for SEN PP students to receive targeted support that meets their needs.	1, 5

### Total budgeted cost:

£411, 725

## Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

### Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

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

Measure	WA Pupil Premium	WA All	National Average Non PP	National Average Pupil Premium
5+ inc Eng and maths	56%	53%	55.0%	55%
Progress 8	0.62	0.57	No P8 in UK	No P8 in UK
Attainment 8	45.8	48.4	45.9	

1. Indicated in the table above and in line with the national picture, last year PP students made more progress and achieved more than non-PP students. In 2025-26, we will continue to ensure PP students receive more intervention than non-PP students and we will prioritise resourcing for them.
2. The percentage of PP students achieving below stanine 5 is higher than the percentage of non PP students (Stanine 5 is where students are reading at their expected chronological age).
3. Students who have achieved stanine 5 or below are included in our intervention plans. These range from a phonics reading group, reading comprehensions and buddy reading.
4. For 2025-26 we want to significantly improve the literacy of PP students.

Year	% PP students achieving stanine 5 and below	% Non-PP students achieving stanine 5 and below
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

5. We have maintained the high percentage of PP students borrowing books from the library. Pupil Premium students will continue to be involved in choosing new library books for 2025 – 2026.

	% of library borrowers that are PP
<b>2022-2023</b>	68%
<b>2023-2024</b>	67%
<b>2024-2025</b>	57%

6. In 2023-2024, 41% of our students were PP and currently we have 46.3% PP students. Pupil premium students continue to hand in their homework less frequently than non-Pupil Premium students. We have continued our subscriptions to online platforms and we have homework clubs. For 2025-24, Pupil Premium students who

are falling behind on their homework will be specifically invited and targeted to attend after school homework club and where this impacts their progress in KS4 they will be referred to targeted intervention.

7. In 2024-2025 every student at the academy attended four or more trips/clubs/activities day/drop down days and much of this was funded for Pupil Premium students. We will continue to prioritise and pay for trips and activities for PP students so that they develop cultural capital and extra-curricular experiences alongside their non-PP peers.

## Externally provided programmes

*Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you purchased in the previous academic year. This will help the Department for Education identify which ones are popular in England.*

Programme	Provider
'My Tutor' tutors used to provide National Tuition Programme	'My Tutor'