Darlinghurst Academy Pupil Premium Strategy Statement 2021-2024

This statement details our academy's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils. It outlines our pupil premium strategy (a three-year approach 2021-2024), 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	Darlinghurst Academy
Number of pupils in school as Oct 23 Census	508
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils as Oct 22 Census	31.3%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended)	2021/22 – 2023/24
Date this statement was published	30 October 2023
Date on which it will be reviewed	1 November 2024
Statement authorised by	Emma Nicholls
Pupil premium lead	Leanne Hahn
Governor / Trustee lead	Bev Williams

Funding overview

Detail – 2022/23	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation (130 ch x £1,385 per ch + 3 LAC £2,410)	£187,280
Recovery premium funding carry forward 22/23	£ 19,440
Total budget for this academic year	£ 206,720

Detail – 2022/23	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation (130 ch x £1,385 per ch + 3 LAC £2,410)	£180,050/£7230
Recovery premium funding carry forward 22/23	£ 19,440
Total budget for this academic year	£ 206,720

Detail – 2023/24	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation (159 pupils @ £1455) (3 LAC @£2530) 31.3%	£231,345 /£7590
Recovery premium 23/24 (159 pupils @ £144)	£ 22,896
Total budget for this academic year	£ 254, 241

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

At Darlinghurst we promote: inclusive culture, foster empowerment, raise the attainment of all of our children no matter their prior attainment, support emotional, health and wellbeing. Our academy priorities drive our approach to supporting the needs of all children, including our disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Provide targeted action to overcome barriers: unleashing the potential of all children at risk to achieve their best possible outcomes.
Improve children's social-emotional skills; developing effective long-term patterns of response, resulting in excellent behaviours and attitudes.

Premium funding (informed by evidence-based approaches from the EEF and proven approaches for similar schools and our own successes) will be used to provide activities to: support the quality of teaching, provide targeted academic support and deal with non-academic barriers We will support the quality of teaching through the provision of PD, provide targeted academic support within year groups (provision map) and deal with non-academic barriers that disadvantaged children face such as attendance, wellbeing and relationship building. We intend implementing a 3-year approach that will be responsive to common challenges and individual needs, rooted in robust diagnostic assessment and not assumptions about the impact of disadvantage. Like the pupil premium, we will spend the recovery premium on a wider cohort of pupils than those who attract the funding and direct recovery premium spending where we think the need is greatest. The academy will use Pupil Premium and Recovery Premium funding together to support our children to make progress, increase attainment outcomes and narrow the gap between PP and Non-PP. The academy will review and evaluate the impact of expenditure for provision at termly intervals throughout the academic year, measuring progress against the success criteria. Where available, internal and external data and information will be used to evaluate progress. We will show how we are using the recovery premium effectively by reporting on our use of recovery premium as part of our pupil premium strategy statement. As with all government funding, Darlinghurst Academy must be able to account for how this money is being used to achieve our central goal of improving the attainment of our disadvantaged. This policy is in place to ensure funding is allocated and spent appropriately with accountability of educational performance, includina scrutiny by governors and trustees. Academy leaders with responsibility for the plan, work with key stakeholders and line managers. The Principal and Vice Principal are accountable through direct line management and to the governing Body, with regular reports and updates to the governing body.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1 – On track	Due to disruption in schooling, identified children who are not on track need additional support to make expected progress by the end of the academic year across all subjects. Homework carefully structured so that all children have access and are not disadvantaged.
2 – Attendance and Punctuality	Due to disruption to schooling, disadvantaged and vulnerable children need support to improve attendance and punctuality: settle back into routines and feel happy and supported at school.
3 – Language and Oracy Development	Disadvantaged children have been among the most negatively affected during lockdown most noticeable within Communication and Language development, often living in a vocabulary poor environment. Promoting reading for pleasure to support our drive to improve children's outcomes.
4 – Cultural Capital	Due to disruption in schooling, disadvantaged children have not had access to enrichment opportunities to support and develop their cultural capital.
5 – Emotional Health and Wellbeing	Disadvantaged children have suffered from isolation, impacting negatively on their social skills, learning behaviours, fitness and general health and wellbeing.

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
Improved attainment for our disadvantaged children at the end of KS2.	KS2 outcomes in core subjects show that by 2024/25 more than 85% of disadvantaged children met the expected standard.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance and punctuality for all children, in particular disadvantaged children and reduce persistent absences (PA).	Sustained high attendance from 2024/25 demonstrated by: The overall PA rate for all children (excluding those who are not on roll and those with medical/hospital exceptional circumstances) being no more than 10% and the disadvantaged attendance gap reduces and is in line with national norms.
Improved oral and language skills and use of vocabulary among our disadvantaged children	Language development is evident in the environment, through observations of dialogue and written work in books of disadvantaged children. Promoting reading for pleasure supporting our read first approach impacting on oracy and written work.
Take up and attendance of enrichment clubs, events and trips and visits are high.	Increased numbers of children attending clubs, enrichment opportunities and projects -exposing children to the best.
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all our children in particular our disadvantaged	Sustained high levels of wellbeing from 2024/25 demonstrated by: Qualitative data from student voice, surveys and teacher observations. A significant increase in participation and engagement in
	enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged children.

Activity

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium funding) over the three-year period to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching

(21/22 £ 83,924) (22/23 £ 52,478) 23/24 Budgeted cost: £ 70,130

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Whole staff Professional Development (PD) supporting current approaches to continue our relentless drive to improving Quality First Teaching (QFT) within the classroombehaviours for learning — relational approach, metacognition and self- regulation -scaffold	Development of metacognition and self-regulation is consistently linked with successful learning from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Y6. Improving self-regulation skills in children is likely to have a lasting positive impact on later learning and on wider outcomes such as behaviour and persistence. Embedding self-regulation strategies is particularly beneficial to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Self-Regulation Toolkit Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)	1,3,4,5
-subject expertise – knowledge and vocabulary enrich experiences in and out of classroom -cultural development	Feedback from teachers – positive praise demonstrates the highest impact across all ages. Feedback Toolkit EEF	

-face-to-face feedback – in the moment marking	Personalised PD Zones of Regulation Subject of subjectness	
Continue to deliver our synthetic phonics programme to secure strong phonics teaching and outcomes for all our children, including the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Phonics/Toolkit EEF Fluid Synthetic phonics programme	1,3
Use of number groups in year groups where there is an identified need for focused arithmetic development, securing fundamental basic skills in Mathematics.	Fluid number groups.	1,5
Purchase of standardised diagnostic assessments. Training for staff to ensure assessments are interpreted accurately, impacting on accurate focused support and intervention tailored to individual need.	Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each pupil to help ensure they receive the correct additional support through interventions or teacher instruction: Standardised Tests/Assessing and Monitoring Pupil Progress EEF NFER Standardised tests, Phonics screen, Phonics assessments, SATS papers, RBA, MTC Pupil Progress meetings	1,3,5
Enhance home learning so that it focuses on key knowledge and supports/fosters independent learning, embedding concepts into the long-term memory.	Quality of homework task set and its relationship to in class learning is integral to learning. Homework Toolkit EEF Termly Homework sheets – mapped weekly spelling focus, daily TTRS rehearsal, daily phonics/reading	1,3
Embed the use of speaking in full sentences through strategies such as Talk To Your Partner (TTYP) and building on answers so that all children can formulate and articulate key ideas, consolidate and extend vocabulary.	There is a strong evidence base that suggests oral language interventions, including dialogic activities such as high-quality classroom discussion, are inexpensive to implement with high impacts on reading. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: Oral language interventions Toolkit EEF	1,3
Promote and develop Reading for Pleasure (2023-24) through World of Stories to impact	Libraries of the world Increase oracy, writing and maths skills.	1,3

positively on all children	Promotion of diversity.	
including those who are	Providing good reading models.	
disadvantaged.		

Targeted academic

(21/22 £ 53,972) (22/23 £ 53,972) 23/24 Budgeted cost: £ 60,000

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Additional 1:1 phonics sessions targeted at disadvantaged children who require further phonics support. Leaders and key staff.	Phonics approaches have a strong evidence base indicating a positive impact on pupils, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Targeted phonics interventions have been shown to be more effective when delivered as regular sessions over a period up to 12 weeks Phonics/Toolkit EEF	1,3,5
Provide targeted pre and post teaching to individuals/groups, ensuring children have the necessary knowledge/key vocabulary/basic skills to access lessons.	Tuition 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: One-to-one tuition Toolkit EEF Small Group Toolkit EEF	1,5
Engage with the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) and provide training and provision for School led tutoring targeting needs/gaps . A significant proportion of the children who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including those who are high attainers.	Tuition 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: One-to-one tuition Toolkit EEF Small Group Toolkit EEF	1,5
Improve listening, narrative and vocabulary skills for disadvantaged children in the EYFS who have relatively low spoken language skills.	Oral language interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' language skills. Approaches that focus on speaking, listening and a combination of the two show positive impacts on attainment: Oral language interventions EEF	1,3,4,5
Reading for Pleasure – World of stories.	National Literacy Trust- providing children from disadvantaged communities the literacy skills to succeed in life. Improved cognitive development, improves mental wellbeing, has a great impact on children's educational achievement. Children who enjoy reading are x3 likely to read at their expected age level.	1,3,4,5
Deliver Play-based learning (child-initiated and adult-led) to improve social and cognitive skills by teaching children how to play.	Positive outcomes for early learning in vocabulary, reasoning and early numeracy. Play-based learning EEF	1,3,4,5

Wider strategies

 $(21/22 \pm 100,270)$ $(22/23 \pm 100,270)$ Budgeted cost: £ 100,270

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge # addressed
Continue to provide holiday clubs to support emotional health and wellbeing.	Our evidence form previous clubs show that children and parents from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from focused holiday clubs. We use our own teaching staff, specialists and provide intensive, well-resourced sessions within the provision. Summer Schools Toolkit EEF	2,5
PD to train staff on how to build strong relationships with all children, in particular disadvantaged and vulnerable children so that barriers to learning are identified quickly and scaffold to support is in place.	Both targeted interventions and universal approaches can have positive overall effects: Behaviour interventions/EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.or g.uk)	ALL
Embedding principles of good practice set out in the Department for Education's (DfE) Improving School Attendance advice. This will involve training and release time for staff to develop and implement procedures and for the Attendance Officer (AO) and leaders in the school to improve attendance for all children, in particular those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable.	The DfE guidance has been informed by engagement with schools that have significantly reduced levels of absence and persistent absence.	ALL
Continue to provide fantastic wellbeing and enrichment opportunities for all our children through the delivery of PE, ARTS and Outdoor Learning (ODL) by our specialist team i.e. mentoring to identified targeted children, skills rich weekly subject specialist led lessons, clubs, trips and projects to help increase career awareness, improve health and wellbeing and raise aspirations.	Positive impact and benefits to children's well-being, confident, self-efficacy, physical development, health and wellbeing and attitudes to learning, impacting on improved attendance. This has been evident in our own experiences and evidence as well as research based approaches. Arts Participation Toolkit EEF Physical activity Toolkit EEF Outdoor Adventure Learning Toolkit EEF	2,3,4,5
Own staff used to cover classes instead of agency staff [cover supervisors, Senior Lead Teacher (SLT), Learning Support assistants (LSAs)]	Our children respond better to our own staff who use a consistent approach to established routines expectations. Children know our staff and respond better in lessons.	ALL
Improve the quality of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and foster a culture amongst all children. Approaches will be embedded into routines and practices. i.e. self-regulation of emotions – Zones Of Regulation (ZOR), transition on a daily basis – post holidays –end and beginning of academic year, lockdowns/blended learning etc.	There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life (e.g., improved academic performance, attitudes, behaviour and relationships with peers): Social and Emotional Learning EEF	1,2,5

Provide ongoing technical access and support and blended learning for those children impacted by COVID-19	Evidence suggests that when children who are disadvantaged have equal access to Quality First Teaching (QFT), they can achieve outcomes similar to their peers.	ALL
Contingency fund for acute issues that may arise throughout the year.	Based on our experiences and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	ALL
Free School Meals (FSM) Voucher – equal access to wider curriculum: supporting our families financially when specific barriers arise i.e. uniform, trips, paid for clubs, transport etc.	Based on our evidence, providing funds for those families that need it, ensures no child is disadvantaged and has equal access to enrichment opportunities.	1,2,3,4,5

21/22 - Total budgeted cost: £ 238,166

22/23 - Total budgeted cost: £ 238,166 23/24 - Total budgeted cost: £ 230,400

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

Pupil premium strategy outcomes

We have analysed the performance of our school's disadvantaged pupils over the past three years and have drawn on national assessment data for KS2, phonics check results and our own internal formative and summative assessments. Our internal processes have been rigorous and designed to identify children's strengths and areas for development. Pupil progress meetings focus on the progress of those who are at a disadvantage, those who are off track and those who need stretch or challenge. Intervention is rapid and fluid, specifically targeted to individual need.

Analysis of data over the past three years indicates that the gaps narrowed in some subjects across pockets of the academy. Relentless focus on these gaps ensured that by the end of 23/24, children who are disadvantaged left the academy with gaps narrowed or closed and PP children working in line with their peers.

Our end of KS2 data shows that our disadvantaged children performed better those disadvantaged children nationally and non- disadvantaged nationally.

	2023-2024				
	National (provisional) Sch		ool	School PP v Nat NPP gap	
	PP	Not PP	PP	Not PP	
Year 6					
Reading	64	81	88	96	-8
Writing	60	79	85	91	-6
Maths	61	81	81	89	-8
Comb	46	67	77	84	-7
Reading scaled scores	102	106	107	108	/
GPS scaled scores	TBC	TBC	105	108	/
Maths scaled scores	104	106	104	106	/

As an academy we begin identification early on in the EYFS. Children are monitored and tracked throughout their time at the academy. Support is provided in class, during assessments and targeted enrichment offered, to support development of the whole child.

Carefully structured skills-based homework (daily reading, spelling and arithmetic) implemented at the start of the 3-year strategy, which can be completed independently, has led to increased engagement from all children. This consistent structure across the academy supports all families. Monitoring ensures that opportunities are provided at school for additional homework support.

Quality new stock, from World of Stories, has enabled us to replenish our school library over the past two years. Drive for book donations has increased children's access to wider range of books and book corners in classrooms to be updated. Promoting Accelerated Reader has increased engagement, which in turn, has increased fluency and accuracy in quizzes.

Outcomes for PP in reading have showed that the gap is narrowing and is less than national (2024). PP 88%, non-PP 89%. Reading scaled scores have increased for reading and PP make good progress within phonics groups and into WCR.

Standard in writing books improved across all year groups (almost in line with pre-COVID standards). Embedded vocabulary rich classroom over the past 3 years and establishing Partner Talk over this time has meant that all children practice oracy in all lessons. Both internal and external moderation of writing ensures standards are good and teacher assessments are consistent. Relentless focus in class with effective use of scaffolds and PP first focus has meant that children have made good progress and closed the gap in writing at end of KS2.

Phonics outcomes have remained high over the past three years with 23/23 outcomes at 85% pass rate for Year 1 Phonics screen. Outcomes are above national expectations and have been for at least the last three years. 80% of KS1 PP children made at least expected progress. 50% of these made accelerated progress. 86% of KS2 PP children made at least expected progress. 58% of these made accelerated progress. Children grouped according to need ensure small steps progress. The impact of identifying adult strengths and matching them to needs of groups ensures most children make at least expected progress. Monitoring and focused CPD ensures phonics delivery is of the highest standard.

Strong teaching in number groups help children to close arithmetic and basic operation gaps. Children have a solid foundation of maths by the time they leave the academy.

Year 1 – PP average arithmetic scores increased from 11.9 in Spring to 12.4 in Summer (no Autumn assessment).

Quality first teaching, rigorous assessment and quick interventions has secured an average of 7 points progress in PP arithmetic scores.

75% of PP children made progress in arithmetic scores from Spring to Summer.

Year 2 – PP average arithmetic scores increased from 9.2 in Autumn to 17.1 in Summer. Quality first teaching, rigorous assessment and quick interventions has secured an average of 12.4 points progress in PP arithmetic scores.

100% of PP children made progress in arithmetic scores from Autumn to Summer term

Year 3 – Ave arithmetic scores increased in Aut 14.0 to 17.3 in Sum term. Ave Std scores increased from 103 in Aut to 106 in Sum term. 72% of PP children improved arithmetic scores from Aut to Sum term. 86% of PP children in number group made positive progress in test results from Autumn to Summer terms

Year 4 – Ave arithmetic score increased from 16.9 in Aut to 23.4 in Sum. 84% of PP children improved arithmetic test results from Aut to Sum ter. 3 PP children in the number moved from WTS to EXS. Ave Std score increased from 105 in Aut to 108 in Sum term.

Year 5 – Ave arithmetic score increased from 13.6 in Aut term to 20.6 in Sum term. 83% of PP children made positive progress in arithmetic test results from Aut to Sum term. Ave Std score for PP group increased from 96 in Aut term to 100 in Sum term.

Year 6 – Ave arithmetic scores increased from 17.1 in Aut to 32.5 in Sum term. Ave Scaled score increased from 93 in Aut term to 104 in Sum term. 96% of P children made positive progress in arithmetic test results from Aut to Sum term.

Nfer arithmetic tests informed school led tutoring and supported analysis of gaps – targeted intervention to make rapid progress. Progress monitored through analysis of summative Nfer tests ensured identified children were targeted and response was rapid. Test assessments allowed for quest level analysis informing planning/interventions ensuring gaps were minimised and progress was rapid.

School led tutoring focused on maths (arithmetic) over the past three years, post COVID. On average the academy had x10 tutors working with PP groups on a weekly basis in KS2. Positive impact was evident across all three years, with a high success rate of children converting to the expected standard and greater depth due to increased arithmetic fluency and skills. At the end of 22/23, 26/58 (49%) children increased their arithmetic scores.

At the end of the 23/24, 78/110 (71%) have increased arithmetic scores.

High priority of key children from AO and SLT has led to PP attendance, at the end of each term, being in line or above previous academic years. Challenge of punctuality by AO and SLT is consistent. In 2023/24 PP attendance was higher than previous years at the end of Autumn and end of Summer.

Attend-	21/22	22/23	23/24
ance%			
Aut	93%	91%	94%
Sum	92%	92%	93%

Attendance for PP children at Darlinghurst has increased slightly over the past three years. DA PP Attendance = 93% which is below national 2024 = 94.7% (Gov.uk).

Surveys across the school indicate that wellbeing is good for all pupils– pupil voice and parent survey support this. Priorities support PP and those who are vulnerable – high academy focus. LSA and teachers – focus PP first. PP are targeted for wellbeing and health. My future my Southend – support careers and aspirations across the entire school. Specialist provision – PE, ART, ODL. Initiatives such as gardening club, community litter picks and tree planting community events have involved and exposed our disadvantaged families to wider opportunities and experiences. enriching their scientific and geographical understanding.

Relentless focus on quality first teaching has improved outcomes over time. Rapid intervention and targeted support happen live in lesson time reducing time spent outside of class. Short, carefully mapped, targeted interventions ensure children do not miss out on the same subject – avoiding narrowing of curriculum access. Strength of CPD (relational approach) has supported school behaviour approach. Scaffold/challenge is evident in lessons to support all learners, particularly PP and SEN. CPD develops teacher subject expertise across the whole curriculum. Quality of lessons and assessment outcomes improved due to strong subject leaders. Relentless focus on promoting the academy, holding community events and successful open evenings has led to us being a school of choice.

Academy wide strategies (TTYP, MTYT) linked to our Excellence Framework develops language. Children's responses are developed and extended through the use of oral rehearsal, repetition, word mats and knowledge organisers (including working walls). Increased participation and engagement in lessons for all children across the curriculum.

Further CPD training relating to zones of regulation supported the embedded practice across the school. Consistency of approach and language to incidents of behaviour for all children. Behaviour policy reviewed to ensure it supports all children. We have also invested in the Paul Dix relational approach over the past two years which has improved relational practice across the academy, supporting all children. Playtimes have been developed so that areas are zoned to support children's social and emotional skills. Provision supports exploration and creativity, supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Additional communication with PP families, along with added financial support, has ensured full access and take up of enrichment activities is strong.

Wrap around care supports those who need it most (19 PP families across the week) Free school clubs enable access for all and all are full or oversubscribed.

PP families encouraged to use their FSM vouchers to support payment of external provider clubs i.e. music tuition, MFL club, gymnastics etc. increasing participation.

Easter and Summer School clubs target PP families and children who are most vulnerable reducing the length of holidays and supporting transition back to the academy.

Feedback from children and families indicate that this support is much needed and appreciated.

Children's health and wellbeing is supported through specialist teachers providing enrichment in Art, D&T, Outdoor Learning and PE. Behaviours and attitudes to learning and social interactions with others are improving due to SPACE, LLS and RE (Religious Education) curriculums. Rewards afternoons support children's sense of belonging and community. Weekly Play Therapy sessions have supported identified children with their mental health and wellbeing (x5 children). Caedmon Company – A Hero's Journey: identified 36 PP children from KS2 identified to participate in workshops building confidence, self-esteem, oral and written literacy and promoting wellbeing. Positive impact on children and their families – see pupil premium page – website. Art development: all PP children participated in a local community project that spanned over an entire term. Children met and worked alongside local artists and explored different media – career and aspiration opportunities.

During the pandemic, all children engaged in online learning and received daily online lessons in core learning. Vulnerable children were invited to the academy and PP children received laptops to complete and engage in learning each and every school day. Pastoral teams liaised with children and families on a regular basis. Engagement and attendance were monitored closely with rapid support and intervention for those who needed it.

Our contingency funding was spent on resources to support our EAL refugees December 21/22 and March 21/22 to support language acquisition and adjusting in life in the UK. Additional EAL/behaviour support LSA for EAL children and SEND/PP needs. Specialist provision to support swimming sessions, ensuring children are water confident, active inclusion in sporting events, selection of PP children and those new to the country to participate in aspiration sessions within the Caedmon Company to build on self-esteem and confidence, representation at events within the community – art, sport, drama etc. FSM Voucher ensure all children have equal access to the curriculum. No child disadvantaged. Pre-loved uniform established and provides uniform to all families at a much-reduced cost. Recycling lost property that is unwanted as well as mass donations throughout the year.