# The Castle School Pupil premium strategy statement 2024-2025

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	The Castle School
Number of pupils in school	199
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	44%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2024-2025
Date this statement was published	September 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2025
Statement authorised by	Jon Hewitt
Pupil premium lead	Caroline Whitlock
Governor / Trustee lead	Helen Cabell

## **Funding overview**

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£ 75,681
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£ 19,220
Total budget for this academic year	£ 94.901

## Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

#### Statement of intent

The Castle School exists to provide a caring, nurturing and outstanding educational community for all of our learners. Our key purpose is to educate, motivate, inspire and celebrate all children with additional needs and to provide a quality educational experience which encourages equality for all; to develop individual self-worth, esteem and potential in all learners and uphold their rights. We are committed to ensuring access and engagement for all irrespective of socio-economic disadvantage.

The Castle School's Development Plan identifies the following themes as priority for this academic year:

#### **English and Reading**

- To develop and grow the English curriculum to support the learners across all pathways.
- To embed a phonics programme (DFE approved) across the whole school.
- To develop reading across all pathways.

#### Castle @ Theale

- To further develop the restorative approach to support every students therapeutic curriculum
- To full train and support restorative peer mentoring
- Development of curriculum at Castle @ Theale
- Support bespoke elements of support packages
- PAWS Therapy

#### **Pupil Progress**

- To enable clear analysis and monitoring of data to develop actions to ensure pupils are making at least good progress
- To identify clear groups, patterns and trends in order to develop clear plan for support.

#### Curriculum

- To ensure that the Castle Curriculum has good breadth and balance
- To review and develop Maths Curriculum across school

We are acutely aware of the increased challenges in relation to growing uncertain financial pressures are having on our families and therefore our learners.

The key principles of the strategy plan are to; ensure that access to learning is not hindered by socio-economic disadvantage, to provide the environment and skills within to meet the needs of all learners irrespective of social, communication or

learning need, to ensure that families have the highest level of support to enable them to resiliently support learning of their children.

- Support the quality of teaching, through staff professional development
- Support families to support their children
- Ensure feedback to learning and next step is fully impactful through effective communication
- To identify areas of focus for individual pupils based upon assessed progress with EHCP targets.
- To reduce attainment gaps caused by social and emotional barriers to learning

### Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Communication and interaction barriers including EAL pupils
2	Staff development. Development of skills and knowledge of evidence based approaches and interventions gap
3	Supporting development of identity and community connections
4	Anxieties around friendships, futures, socialising, and school.
5	Development and sustainability of learning behaviours that lead to reduction in concentration and engagement
6	Increased parental stresses, particularly around financial pressures and financial uncertainties.
7	Opportunities to learn outside the classroom - our pupils are less likely to have opportunities to access outdoor learning. One of the greatest barriers to success, as per assessment and EHCP annual review data, is pupils being unable to generalise skills in wider contexts.
8	Lack of access to quality reading materials and low motivation to read.

### 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
To enable parents of pupils eligible for PPG to have greater access to school and	Upon review of Pastoral support and engagement, all families whose child/children are eligible for PPG have

training to enable them to support their had contact with Pastoral Team members. children in their learning, personal and social development, leading to improved Pastoral Team members are attending outcomes. review meetings as appropriate To ensure full engagement with other Therapeutic Plans for pupils engage with all settings including school, home and support services in order to meet the the wider community needs of these pupils. Student progress will show that all pupils To work within a wider support network for are making expected progress or more families to receive targeted early help. towards their EHCP outcomes and progress in their core curriculum To work alongside teaching teams to frameworks. (Pupil Progress meetings will support pupils within school to achieve monitor this). personalised engagement programmes, leading to greater self-awareness, selfconfidence and resilience and positive learning outcomes. To support the development and implementation of Therapeutic Plans as part of the Therapeutic Thinking Approach. To enable pupils eligible for PPG to have Student progress will show that all pupils support to empower them in their learning are making expected progress or more towards their EHCP outcomes and and to improve their resilience, improving progress in their core curriculum their learning outcomes. frameworks. (Pupil Progress meetings will monitor this). To offer targeted ELSA support To offer daily ELSA based social engagement groups 'Boost' for targeted pupils. Evidence of practice enhancement Development of teaching and learning practice through annual appraisal, learning walks, pupil progress reviews and work looks. Behaviour for learning will be seen across Pupils will be supported, as appropriate, with their emotional wellbeing. The Castle School in preparation for, and behavioural and mental health needs during, educational visits. through accessing activities in the community. Increase in number of offsite educational visits and opportunities to generalise skills Pupils are supported with physical in different contexts. development opportunities and become safe members of the community, through

taking measured risks and learning from experiences.

Pupils are supported to communicate with unfamiliar members of the community in order to complete tasks or ask for help.

Evidence of curricular opportunities to build towards pupils being able to transition off school site.

Evidence of EHCP targets being met as a result of educational visits.

## Activity in this academic year

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

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

Budgeted cost: £5320

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Animal Therapy – Range of animal led therapeutic interventions, targeted at students' needs.	EEF – Intervention guid- ance	1,3,4, 5,7
PAWS – Animal Assisted Talking Therapies	Therapeutic Thinking Approach	
Smelly Wellies – Therapeutic Animal Sanctuary	Emotional Health	
These programmes are for targeted students whose needs for intervention are identified through their Therapeutic Plans and Team Around The Student.	Academy Educational Psychology Service	

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

Budgeted cost: £66017

NB: Figures expected to change – relating to salary increases to be confirmed

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Continue to employ the Pastoral Manager and Family Liaison Officers to support and implement programmes for families of pupils eligible for PPG Support includes;	EEF – Intervention guidance Therapeutic Thinking Approach	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

<ul> <li>Parental Engagement, support with accessing community resources, liaising with other agencies, parenting advice and development of Therapeutic Plans across settings, support of familial resilience, supporting communication with school teams.</li> <li>Termly parent groups cofacilitated with Respite provision</li> <li>Providing connection and working collaboratively with Therapeutic Thinking Teams to plan, deliver and review person centred approach to promote prosocial behaviour, implement Therapeutic Plans and bespoke timetables.</li> </ul>	Trauma and Attachment Informed Practice – The Mulberry Bush	
Train two further ELSAs to provide targeted ELSA intervention to specific pupils across the school.  1:1 targeted ELSA support  BOOST Group - ELSA based social skills group – daily programme for targeted pupils. Pupils are referred having been identified as in need of additional nurture and social development intervention by the class teams, the Pastoral Team assess and target the needs, planning a bespoke programme of daily support, using ELSA based approaches and nurture through Breakfast. This group is planned and delivered by Pastoral Manager and ELSA trained staff.	EEF – Intervention guidance  Therapeutic Thinking Approach  EEF – Tiered approach supporting families	1,2,3,4,5,6
£2000 Pupil Premium Support Fund Accessible through the Pastoral Team to access support for school related costs such as uniform, shoes, equipment and materials.		

## Budgeted Cost – £18,567

Outdoor spaces will be developed, and opportunities for adventurous outdoor activities provided for pupils	Council for Learning Outside the Classroom  Evidence and Research - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (lotc.org.uk)	1,3,4,5,7,8	
<ul> <li>We will utilise local providers such as:</li> <li>Swings and smiles</li> <li>Yulebury</li> <li>Development of outside places</li> <li>Adventure dolphin</li> <li>Thames Valley adventure playground – Safe</li> <li>Earth Trust</li> <li>Virtue Gymnastics</li> <li>Raw Mentoring</li> <li>Thurtover</li> <li>Calshot</li> </ul>			

### Budgeted Cost – £5000

Development of library	National Literacy Trust   UK	1,3,8
	<u>Literacy Charity</u>	
We want to redevelop the library to		
create a space to inspire and engage		
our pupils to develop a love for		
reading.	Reading to children is so	
	powerful, so simple and yet so	
	misunderstood   National	
	<u>Literacy Trust</u>	
The environment will be developed to		
make books easier to access. There will		
be snug areas that allow students to		
read in comfort.	How does reading benefit	
	children?   BookTrust	
Technology will be incorporated in to		
the redevelopment to allow students		
unable to read to still develop a love	Donding facts I Donding	
of books and stories.	Reading facts   Reading	
	Agency	

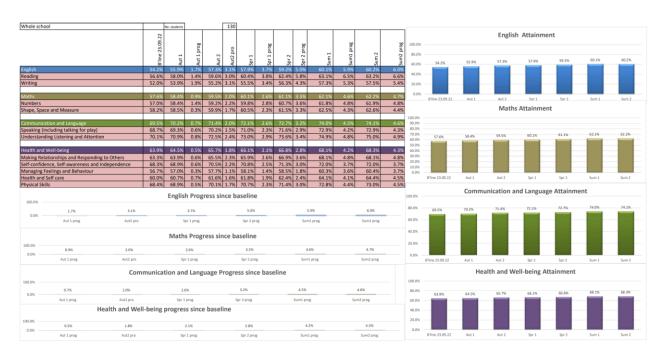
# Total budgeted cost: £ 94901

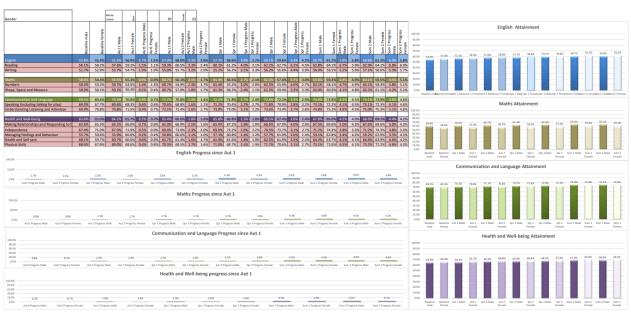
# Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

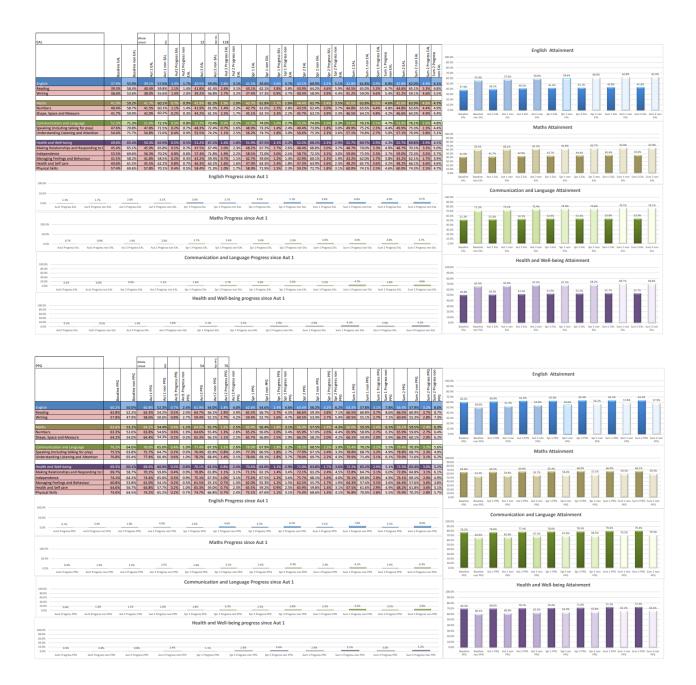
### Pupil premium strategy outcomes

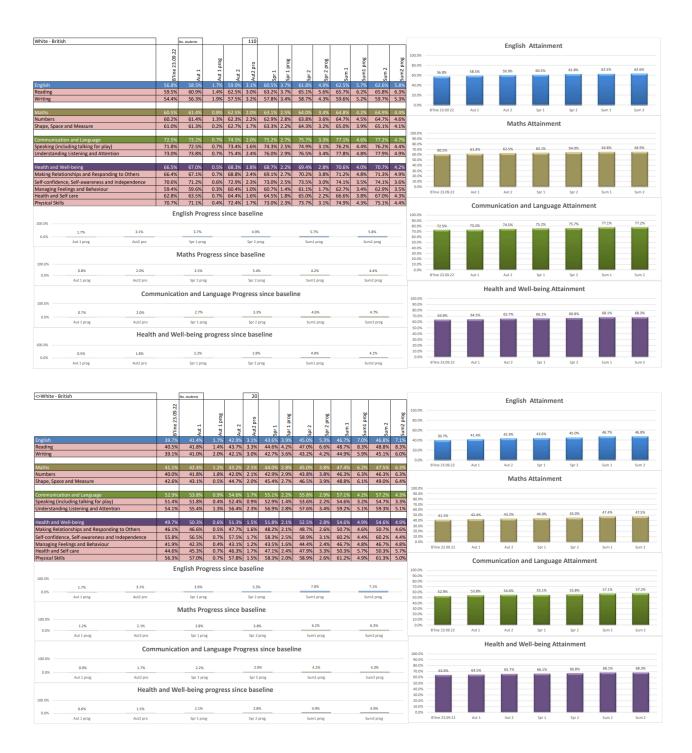
This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on students in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The data below shows progress of all PPG students against non-PPG students in the school. All data shows that PPG eligible students are making excellent progress in all areas of Maths, English, Communication and Language and Health and Wellbeing. In all areas PPG students are making greater progress across the year compared to the non-PPG cohort.









## **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

# Service pupil premium funding Not Received in this school year

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information:

Measure	Details
How did you spend your service pupil premium allocation last academic year?	
What was the impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible students?	