

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

Publicly-funded schools in England get extra funding from the government to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils.

Evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds:

- *generally, face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school*
- *often do not perform as well as their peers*

The pupil premium grant is designed to allow schools to help disadvantaged pupils by improving their progress and the exam results they achieve.

The pupil premium grant is not an entitlement for individual pupils, it is a sum given to schools to improve attainment through an effective three-tiered approach.

(Department for Education Pupil Premium policy paper – updated 30th January 2020)

Pupil Premium Ambition

The ambition at Ecton Brook is to close the attainment gap between pupils. Our aim is to ensure that there is a reduced and limited attainment gap between the outcomes achieved for our pupils who qualify for the funding and other pupils within the school and nationally.

At Ecton Brook we wish to ensure that children who qualify for PPG benefit from having equal access to our broad and rich curriculum. This is achieved through:

- high quality, research based CPD/staff training for all of our teachers and teaching assistants
- highly effective delivery of a carefully planned, knowledge rich curriculum; including the teaching of metacognitive strategies to empower pupils to embed learning.
- high quality additional support and intervention for those who need it; including commissioned support from external agencies such as Educational Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist.
- focussed pastoral intervention to support pupils where external factors act as a significant barrier to their learning.

Tiered approach

Evidence suggests that pupil premium spending is most effective when schools use a tiered approach, targeting spending across teaching, academic support and wider approaches including pastoral support. Ecton Brook's Pupil Premium Strategy document (also available under the pupil premium tab on the school website), illustrates how Ecton Brook allocates the funding to these three areas in order to ensure that the needs of the children are met.

Impact of funding

The DfE understands that due to school closures, it won't be possible for schools to evaluate the impact of the Pupil Premium Grant for all of the 2019/20 academic year. Instead, schools should monitor and report on the grant's impact at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Our report will cover the whole period between September 2019 and July 2021. Internal data and assessment will be reported online by the end of September 2021.

On the return to school in March 2021 pupils were given an initial period of two weeks to settle in to routines and ensure that wellbeing needs were addressed. Following this, teachers carried out formative and summative assessments in order to monitor the progress of all pupils but particularly those in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This has enabled school staff to ascertain where the gaps in knowledge are and put in place 'catch-up' sessions to diminish the difference for our most vulnerable pupils.

The three-year Pupil Premium Strategy was updated and adjusted in April 2021, post Covid lockdown.