

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



PUPIL PREMIUM STRATEGY

Status	STATUTORY
Responsible Governors' Committee	Quality of Education
Responsible Person	Vice Principal
Review Date	Autumn 2025
Date of next review	Summer 2026

Pupil premium strategy statement

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (for the 2025 to 2026 academic year) 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	Cowley International College
Number of pupils in school	1240
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	42.9%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2024/25 – 2026/27
Date this statement was published	1 st December 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	1 st July 2026
Statement authorised by	R Cormack
Pupil premium lead	C Dickinson
Governor / Trustee lead	G Anders

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£558,600
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£0
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (enter £0 if not applicable)	£0
Total budget for this academic year If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year	£558,600

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Our intention is that all Cowley students, irrespective of the background or the challenges they face, have the highest academic aspiration, attend College with outstanding attendance, make excellent progress and achieve high attainment across a broad curriculum. It is also our intention that all students are involved in a range of extra-curricular and super-curricular activities and access the incredible offer of enrichment opportunities available.

The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve these goals and have aspiration to further their opportunities and career options. We will consider the challenges faced by vulnerable pupils, such as those who are looked after, have a social worker or early help support, and those with caring responsibilities.

The activities we have outlined in this statement will support students, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not. Quality first teaching is at the heart of our approach, with a focus on areas in which disadvantaged pupils require the most support. This is proven to have the greatest impact on closing the disadvantage attainment gap and at the same time will benefit all students.

The strategy is part of the wider College plan for education recovery, targeting intervention through the additional lessons and classes after College, and during school holidays.

There is also a focus on supporting strong routines and additional support for those students and families struggling with high levels of attendance and punctuality, and those with challenges in self-regulation.

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Our assessments show that the reading and comprehension of disadvantaged students is lower than that of their peers, and have been impacted to a greater extent by the recent partial school closures. Our observations support the findings of discussions with students and families; which indicate that our disadvantaged students are less likely to engage with reading outside of the classroom, with fewer children have regular access to reading materials outside of the classroom.
2	The attainment and progress of disadvantaged students in Core and EBacc subjects is generally lower than that of their peers at the end of Year 11. KS2 tests and CAT tests completed in Year 6 shows that the attainment gap of Year 7 students on entry to Cowley has widened significantly this year, emphasising the importance of early intervention across the College.
3	Our attendance data shows that the attendance of disadvantaged students in general terms is 10% lower than that of their peers with a higher proportion of disadvantaged students identified as persistently, or severely absent from College. Our assessment of student performance demonstrates that absenteeism has a significant negative impact on the progress of disadvantaged students. 50% of disadvantaged students are persistently absent, compared to 25% of their peers.
4	Our data suggests that some disadvantaged students have found greater challenges returning to strong routines, and good self-regulation. In general terms, a disadvantaged student is twice more likely to be late to College, to choose a detention, and 4 times more likely to be suspended from school.

5	Our observations and assessments indicate that the quality and quantity of preparation for external examinations is lower for disadvantaged students than their peers. The 2024/25 end of KS4 progress gap is -1.23.
6	The College supports children in wider capacities above the typical national and local averages. The College coordinates the early help support for a significant number of students and families in the community and contributes alongside the Council's Children and Young Persons Service to the wider family support for children in need, children who care for their relatives, and children who are looked after.

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
Improve attainment and progress of disadvantaged students across the curriculum at the end of KS4 with an increase in disadvantaged students entering the English Baccalaureate.	2025/26 KS4 outcomes demonstrate that disadvantaged students achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an average Attainment 8 score of 35 an EBacc average point score of 3.0
Improve reading and comprehension of disadvantaged students	By the end of the current plan, the percentage of disadvantaged students reading below their chronological age should be below the national average 15%.
Improve attendance for all, particularly disadvantaged students	By the end of the current plan, we aim for sustained high attendance to be demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving the attendance of disadvantaged students generally to 90% reducing the proportion of disadvantaged students persistently absent to 25% reducing the proportion of disadvantaged students severely absent to 5%
Improve self-regulation of disadvantaged students	By the end of the current plan, the suspension rate for DA students will be at, or below, the national average for all students.
Increase in participation rates of disadvantaged students in a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities.	In year 3 we expect to increase the percentage of disadvantaged students participating in at least 1 enrichment activity to 95% in 2025-26.

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

Budgeted cost: £219,617

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Subscription of standardised diagnostic assessment tools to adequately assess reading age of students.</p> <p>Whole school CPD to focus on explicit reading and vocabulary instruction in all disciplines.</p>	<p>Standardised tests can provide reliable insights into the specific strengths and weaknesses of each student, and enables teachers to have a clear understanding of this so that they can choose the most effective activities and interventions to improve reading.</p> <p>EEF findings show that reading comprehension strategies are high impact on average, for relatively low implementation cost:</p>	1,2,5
<p>Retrieval opportunities developed (CPD to upskill staff in effective retrieval activities)</p>	<p>Retrieval practice is an effective technique because it requires students to recall previously learnt knowledge, which creates stronger memory traces and increases the likelihood that the information will be transferred to the long-term memory. EEF research shows well planned retrieval practice has the potential to considerably accelerate student achievement at a low cost.</p>	2,5
<p>Develop whole-College feedback policy</p>	<p>EEF research shows that effective use of feedback has the potential to accelerate student achievement (0.66 months) at a low cost.</p>	2,5
<p>Develop teachers' 'strong starts' and Core Classroom Habits to all lessons through continued, targeted CPD sessions.</p>	<p>EEF research suggests that effective classroom management can reduce challenging behaviour, pupil disengagement, bullying and aggression. Improving classroom management usually involves intensive training with teachers reflecting on their classroom management, trying a new approach and reviewing their progress over time. Strong starts also reduce cognitive overload and free up working memory, ensuring strong schema is developed. This will in turn make good academic outcomes more likely.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/metacognition-and-self-regulation</p>	2,4, 5
<p>Implement the expert teacher programme</p>	<p>Engaging teaching is the best way to ensure all learners learn well. This is particularly true of disadvantaged students.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Reading CPD	Explicit reading instruction CPD opportunities will continue to be developed and interwoven into curriculum plans in all subject areas.	1, 2, 5
Provide revision guides to all students at KS4 in GCSE subjects	Student and teaching staff voice tells us that students using the same revision guide helps support wider self-study. This helps directly disadvantaged students have the same access to high quality revision guides, and revision activities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Purchase subscription to GCSE Pod	Student and parent voice tells us that GCSE pod is a very useful revision and self-study tool. Online tracking offered by the software enables teachers to direct intervention directly to students who are not using GCSE pod regularly	2, 5
The Senior Leadership Team will visit schools performing well in the challenges identified	Visiting schools in similar contexts who are exceeding national trends in attendance of disadvantaged students will provide practical, and proven strategies which can be applied to improve attendance.	4, 5, 6
Develop Sarah Cowley Centre Curriculum	Evidence shows reducing gaps in curriculum supports reintegration into 11-16 lessons.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Develop a Connect and Re-Connect Curriculum including an Alternative Reflective Curriculum	Evidence locally shows rapid and high impact with attendance and outcomes of disadvantaged students	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Deliver 2-year programme - EFA	EEF research shows that effective use of feedback has the potential to accelerate student achievement (0.66 months) at a low cost. Research shows that the programme equips teachers with more skills to gain more effective data about learning and use this to plan better opportunities to address misconceptions and further challenge students	2,5

Targeted academic support

Budgeted cost: £98,149

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Purchase reading decoding and comprehension intervention packages. Train a wide team of staff to use intervention effectively.</p> <p>Purchase of a specific Reading Intervention Programme 'Thinking Reading' and the recruitment and training of LSAs to support effective delivery of the intervention strategies.</p> <p>Purchase of a specific comprehension intervention programme 'Rapid Plus' and the appropriate training to support effective implementation and delivery.</p>	<p>EEF findings show that effective diagnosis of reading difficulties is important in identifying possible solutions, particularly for older struggling readers.</p> <p>Research studies have demonstrated that small group tuition and LSA led interventions have a moderate impact for a moderate costs. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions</p> <p>Other findings show that tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/one-to-one-tuition</p> <p>EEF findings show that explicit teaching of phonics has high impact for level cost https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/phonics</p>	1,2,5
Organised additional staff to deliver targeted intervention in Maths and English	Evidence shows that regular intervention supports retrieval and recall of knowledge, which supports students in their English and Maths	1, 2, 5
Offer a full programme of academic enrichment	EEF research indicates that this intervention is value for money; having good impact for a very low cost. Our analysis of student attendance shows that small group sessions are very well attended. Student voice tell us that students value small group intervention sessions.	2, 5
Schedule 3 programmes of small-group	Students and parents tell us that they appreciate and value holiday tuition. The examination data shows that students	2, 5

holiday tuition sessions for students, focussed on addressing gaps in knowledge.	that attend these sessions have significantly higher Attainment 8 scores	
Provide a range of high-quality online resources and physical textbooks for KS4 students to support College-directed self-study, and preparation for external examinations.	Student and parent questionnaires tell us that using a common bank of online and physical resources supports the planning and quality of independent study and is good preparation for external examinations. Teachers are able to set revision tasks more effectively and track accurately the level and quality of student self-study.	1, 2, 5
Deploy teaching assistants to specific students and deliver intervention.	This ensures that students are supported with their learning, organisation and behaviour. EEF research suggests that LSA support can have moderate impact 0.4 months. https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/teaching-assistant-interventions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Teaching staff CPD in using progress data software	Our internal analyses show that teachers highly skilled in identifying under performance can intervene more effectively to improve progress	2, 5
Additional core subject teachers allocated to teaching lessons in Sarah Cowley Centre	EEF findings show that tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind: One to one tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1, 2, 3, 4
Implement a 'Cowley Comprehends' intervention strategies and deliver intervention.	EEF Findings and our own internal data show that small group tuition has a moderate impact on pupils' learning and can be an effective tool to address key knowledge gaps: Small group tuition EEF (educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)	1, 2, 5

Wider strategies

Budgeted cost: £240,834

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Purchase stocks of rewards that students can claim when they achieve conduct points	Student voice tells us that students like to earn conduct points and work towards a goal so they can be rewarded	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Strengthen the Attendance Team with additional staffing	Based on our experiences we have identified a need for additional members of the pastoral support team to be the main point of contact for students who are persistently or severely absent. . Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)	3,4, 6
Develop a College Management Team to enable swift and early behavioural support and intervention	Extensive research into similar schools evidences rapid improvements in behaviour and significant reduction in suspension.	
Secure the services of a Safer Schools Officer 0.6 to support help for young people to deal with situations that may put them at risk of becoming victims of crime, bullying or intimidation, and to provide support to those who do	Our observations indicate that the early identification and intervention by the Safer Schools Officer have been a key preventative measure for a number of young people.	3, 4, 6
Employ additional clerical support for the pastoral team, to enable the staff to spend more of their time supporting students in College, with early intervention	Our observations show that the pastoral team build fantastic relationships with students that need their support, and additional clerical support will enable the team to spend less of their time on administrative tasks, and more time helping students.	4, 6
Invest in the Sarah Cowley Centre employing additional staff and Leadership, to support students who are accessing the Sarah Cowley Centre	An increased number of students require social, emotional and behavioural support. A larger team in the Sarah Cowley Centre with additional Senior Leadership will support these students to improve attendance, punctuality and engagement with the curriculum.	3, 4, 5, 6
Integrate time-budgeted behaviour management, support and intervention with a range and menu of support for teaching and support staff	Our analysis of interventions shows that personalised interventions from students' own teachers have the most positive impact on improving a student's engagement in learning.	3, 4, 6
Provide breakfast clubs with meal provision	Our observations show that some students benefit from a free meal at the beginning of the College Day	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Provide homework club after College	There is an increase in the number of disadvantaged students who are struggling to return to self-study.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Provide and purchase various miscellaneous items to remove barriers for disadvantaged students	Each year there are a number, and range of unanticipated barriers for disadvantaged students.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Allocate Y13 mentors to each KS3 Team	Our evidence shows that Y13 students used as mentors and guides can be an aspirational figure for some disadvantaged students	2, 3, 4, 5
Deliver all staff CPD on CPI institute principles and de-escalation strategies	To support the reduction in internal and external exclusions. This CPD will allow staff to be upskilled in de-escalating situations within lessons and around the college.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Purchase PASS software from GL Assessments	Internal evidence shows that the analysis pupil attitudinal survey data enables more targeted and earlier intervention with students whose attitudes make them at risk of suspension or becoming persistently or severely absent	3, 4, 5
Bring in external agencies Mersey Forest, LFC Foundation, St Helens community foundation, YJS to work with specific students	Early intervention to support targeted students in wider community issues.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Total budgeted cost: £558,600

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

Intended outcome	Success criteria	Outcomes
Improve attainment and progress of disadvantaged students across the curriculum at the end of KS4 with an increase in disadvantaged students entering the English Baccalaureate.	By the end of our current plan 35% or more of disadvantaged students enter the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). KS4 outcomes demonstrate that disadvantaged students achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an average Attainment 8 score of 45 an EBacc average point score of 3.5 	In 24/25 37% of DA students entered the EBACC In 24/25 average A8 was and EBACC average point score was 2.5
Improve reading and comprehension of disadvantaged students	By the end of the current plan, the percentage of disadvantaged students reading below their chronological age should be below the national average 25% for all students.	In 24/25 8% of DA students are reading below their chronological age
Improve attendance for all, particularly disadvantaged students	By the end of the current plan, we aim for sustained high attendance to be demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving the attendance of disadvantaged students generally to 90% reducing the proportion of disadvantaged students persistently absent to 25% reducing the proportion of disadvantaged students severely absent to 7% 	In 24/25 attendance of DA students was 80% In 24/25 the proportion of DA students who were PA was 50% In 24/25 the proportion of DA who were SA was 16%
Improve self-regulation of disadvantaged students	We expect to see disadvantaged students return to strong routines and evidence to suggest they are making good self-regulation of choices by a reduction in C5 sanctions for defiance	DA suspension rate in the last terms of 24/25 reduced significantly
Increase in participation rates of disadvantaged students in a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities.	In year 1 we expect to increase the percentage of disadvantaged students participating in at least 1 enrichment activity to 70%, rising to 75% in 2024/25.	In 2024-25 the % DA completing 1 enrichment was 91% (non-DA is 96%)