

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

Marshland High School

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 spend had within our school.

School overview

Detail	Data
School name	Marshland High School
Number of pupils in school	838
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	32%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers	2023/2024 to 2025/2026
Date this statement was published	September 2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	September 2026
Statement authorised by	Craig Jansen, Headteacher
Pupil premium lead	Chris Teanby, Assistant Headteacher
Governor / Trustee lead	Emma Hunt, Governor

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil Premium funding allocation this academic year	£220,375
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years	£0
Total budget for this academic year	£220,375

Part A: Pupil Premium Strategy Plan

Statement of intent

Marshland High School is a partner school within the West Norfolk Academies Trust. Our Trust has the strategic overview of the work of our school with some powers delegated to our local governing body, which monitors educational standards and effectiveness.

WNAT provides support for teaching, learning and assessment and for leadership in our school through our Trust executive and collaboration within other Trust schools. Our Trust also uses external consultants and links with other Academy Trusts and schools to support and evaluate our school's improvement.

- Our school is a smaller than an average-sized rural comprehensive secondary school with 838 students.
- Prior attainment of our students is below that of other students nationally in reading, writing and mathematics.
- The achievement of the oldest students, as shown by KS4 data, is above the national expectations.
- Majority of families are in the 3rd income decile. It is therefore estimated that a larger proportion of our students are from a socio-economic background only just above thresholds to claim FSM, concluding that there is a 'hidden' majority of our students within the cohort as a whole who are disadvantaged in comparison to the national. We receive students in Year 7 from over 25 feeder primary schools. We are a very popular school, and for the last five years have been significantly oversubscribed each new intake.
- The gender cohort differs significantly across some year groups but overall is generally in line with the national.
- The very large majority of students are of White British heritage and from these a significant number are from low-income families.
- The proportion of our students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds appears broadly in line with the national average. However, our school serves a geographic area where rural poverty is very high. Four of the lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) in Fenland are in the 10% most deprived nationally, all of which are in Wisbech. A significant proportion of our school cohort are from this area.
- The proportion of our students who have SEN support is 30% (255 students) and is higher than the national average. The proportion who have an education, health and care plan 5.3% (45 students). This is slightly above the national average (4%).
- 13 students are from the traveller community (1.6%)
- 121 students are EAL (14%)
- The school has 17 looked after children (2%).
- Between 2024 and 2025, 48 pupils left the school.
- The school infrastructure and buildings are dated. Despite more recent investment, the majority of school classrooms are significantly below the DfE recommendation of 60m². This restricts the flexibility of learning spaces.
- Access to alternative provision is extremely limited within West Norfolk. We actively work across two local authorities to establish approved AP for individual students where this may prove beneficial.
- The school meets the government's current floor standards.

Marshland aim to ensure our disadvantaged students, despite the barriers inferred from the aforementioned context, can excel. We aim to prepare all our young people for life in modern Britain. Developing active caring and independent citizens who lead rewarding and successful lives. We provide a safe and friendly community, where students experience a challenging and engaging curriculum, offering cultural opportunities beyond the classroom. We want all our students, particularly our disadvantaged students, to have the social confidence and education to be able to stand as equals alongside anyone else in any situation and for any opportunity.

Challenges

The key challenges to achievement identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<p>Literacy</p> <p>As a school, prior attainment, reading and writing in year groups is either in line or below the national average. In Year 7, 42% of disadvantaged pupils (PP) did not meet the expected Reading standard in SATS Our current Year 8 cohort, at the same entry point in Year 7, 41% did not meet the Reading expected standard and 40% did not meet the expected standard in Grammar, Punctuation and spelling.</p> <p>A suite of assessments including access reading test and fluency assessments have demonstrated that we have a small number of 15 (29% of the disadvantaged cohort) struggling readers (those identified as being below a SS of 90), 26 students (50% of the disadvantaged cohort) have a SS of below 95. A significant proportion of students are not yet reading at their age level.</p> <p>This year we have secured an additional £2,500 from the local Council to support reading for disadvantaged students. This funding will be used to develop the Reading Passport to support the growth of reading for pleasure.</p> <p>These issues have been exacerbated at MHS by the pandemic, where students have had limited access to reading material. We continue to develop our reading curriculum. Extended writing has been identified as a challenge but strategies are in place to address this. These challenges are being addressed through enhancing our curriculum and approach to quality assurance.</p>
2	<p>Self-Regulation</p> <p>Our observations suggest many lower attaining disadvantaged pupils lack metacognitive / self-regulation strategies when faced with challenging tasks, notably in their monitoring and evaluation of their answers. This is indicated across the curriculum. Student perseverance and passive engagement need challenging, where they fall short of expectations, in order to improve attainment and achievement.</p>
3	<p>Early Intervention</p> <p>Marshland's large number of feeder primaries makes transition work more challenging. On average Y7 students arrive with reading, writing and mathematical skills below that of other students nationally. Early diagnostic intervention to improve the attainment gap of all students is a priority.</p>

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
4	<p>Quality First evidence informed approach to teaching</p> <p>We continue to strengthen and develop high quality teaching in all subject areas. We are prioritising the quality of feedback and independent work within lessons to improve students' knowledge. We also recognise the importance of the link between feedback and relationships. Students will accept and act on feedback if the relationship with their subject teacher is strong.</p> <p>We prioritise the consistency with which teachers develop relationships between student, staff and parents.</p>
5	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Historically, MHS attendance is typically lower and persistent absence higher, than the national average, reflecting attendance behaviours within feeder primary schools and across West Norfolk. CV19 has been a causal factor in rates falling. This is an area that is improving however remains a target for future development so that it is at least in line with Pre-Covid national figures</p>

Intended outcomes

The outcomes we are aiming to achieve by the end of our current strategy plan with measures to analyse achievement.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
<p>Improved attainment among disadvantaged pupils across the curriculum, by the end of KS4, with a clear focus on EBacc subjects.</p> <p>To increase the number of disadvantaged students' studying A levels or equivalent</p>	<p>By the end of our current plan in 2025/26, more disadvantaged students will enter the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).</p> <p>2025/26 KS4 outcomes demonstrate that disadvantaged pupils achieve in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>In 2025/26, more of our disadvantaged students will continue their education onto A Levels or equivalent.</p>
<p>Improved reading comprehension and oral language among disadvantaged pupils across KS3 and KS4.</p>	<p>Improving literacy will improve outcomes. By 2025/26, disadvantaged pupils will achieve in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.</p> <p>Disadvantaged students will improve their reading to achieve in line with their peers as measured by their access reading tests (for all students in the school).</p>
<p>Further strengthen our evidence informed approach to teaching and learning across the school.</p>	<p>Learning walks, student voice and subject deep dives will show a further strengthening of the quality of teaching.</p> <p>GCSE results by 2026 continue to show an improving trend in achievement for all students and</p>

Intended outcome	Success criteria
	progress toward eliminating the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.
Diagnostic literacy assessments in KS3 and KS4 to identify students for early intervention leading to improvements in their attainment and achievement.	<p>Students with literacy needs will be identified in KS3 for early intervention, such as the read, write, ink.</p> <p>These interventions will demonstrate improvements to reading fluency and written work when compared to peers by 2026.</p>
Improved metacognitive and self-regulatory skills among disadvantaged pupils across all subjects.	<p>Teacher reports and class observations suggest disadvantaged pupils are more able to monitor and regulate their own learning. This finding will be supported by assessment and teacher feedback of student work.</p> <p>The tracking of behaviour consequences, including fixed term exclusions will show progress towards eliminating the gap between disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students' negative behaviours (as shown by the consequence system) by 2025/26.</p>
To achieve and sustain improved wellbeing for all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged.	<p>Sustained high levels of wellbeing by 2025/26 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative data from student voice, student and parent surveys and teacher observations. • A significant increase in participation in enrichment activities, particularly among disadvantaged pupils. • Further enhance our CEIAG offer.
To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged students, so it is at least in-line with Pre-Covid national	<p>Sustained high attendance by 2025/26 demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall absence rate for all students showing significant progress toward eliminating the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers. • The percentage of all pupils who are persistently absent being below national average and the figure among disadvantaged pupils being in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.

Activity in this academic year

Details of how we intend to spend our Pupil Premium and Recovery Premium funding **this academic year** to address the challenges outlined above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: **£62,211**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Staff responsibility and TLR's. Strategic and operational roles to support both students and staff. This includes Pupil Premium, Assessments, Literacy, Meta-cognition, self-regulation and best use of TAs and intervention.	By following recommendations set out in the evidence-based research documents below, we stand the best chance of raising the bar for all but disproportionately so for our disadvantaged pupils. Making best use of TA's. EEF. Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. EEF. Metacognition and self-regulation. EEF.	1,2,3,4
Raise expectations of disadvantaged students' ability across staff and the community, addressing the key challenges that some disadvantaged students may face.	Key lessons learned in the EEF's research show that the number one factor in improving academic progress for all, but in particular for the disadvantaged students, is quality first teaching. EEF - A key factor for attainment and progress is effective teaching, as highlighted by the Sutton Trust's 2011 report. Improving teaching raises outcomes for all, but is disproportionately beneficial for the most disadvantaged. In addition, evidence suggests schools who create additional time to prioritise professional development have seen exceptional outcomes for disadvantaged students. The evidence from the study, <i>Against the odds</i> , suggests that staff attitudes are an important factor in creating a positive culture to tackle socio-economic disadvantage. The attainment gap. EEF.	2,4,5

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Developing metacognitive and self-regulation skills in all pupils. This will involve ongoing teacher training and support and release time.	Teaching metacognitive strategies to pupils can be an inexpensive method to help pupils become independent learners. There is particularly strong evidence that it can have a positive impact on maths attainment: Metacognition and self-regulation Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF	2,4
Improving literacy in all subject areas, in line with recommendations in the EEF Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools guidance. We will fund professional development opportunities and instructional coaching focussed on each teacher's subject area.	Acquiring disciplinary literacy is key for students as they learn new, more complex concepts in each subject: Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools Reading comprehension, vocabulary and other literacy skills are heavily linked with attainment in maths and English: word-gap.pdf (oup.com.cn)	1

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

Budgeted cost: **£116,232**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Adopting a targeted teaching programme as a reading intervention for disadvantaged pupils who need additional help to comprehend texts and address vocabulary gaps.	We were planning to use Fresh Start (read, write, ink) for struggling readers for phonics. Students who are above the struggling readers classification but still are below age or SEND expected level receive Lexia PowerUp intervention in the 2025-26 academic year. Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools	1,3,4

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Sparx Maths, Sparxs Reader and Seneca learning.	<p>Purchase of external online licences via providers that concentrate on both course materials and diagnostic assessments.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/digital-technology-2012</p>	1,3,4
Teacher Assistants, learning and academic mentors training / small group work.	<p>EEF – ‘The recommendations in this guidance recognise the fact that schools are operating within already tight budgets; however, noticeable improvements in pupil outcomes can be made through the thoughtful use of existing resources.’</p> <p>Best use of TA’s. EEF.</p>	1,2,3,4
English, Mathematics and Science Saturday school led tutoring. Designed to address the gaps in student knowledge to improve attainment. A high proportion of students who receive tutoring will be disadvantaged, including high attainers.	<p>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:</p> <p>One to one tuition EEF educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk</p> <p>And in small groups:</p> <p>Small group tuition Toolkit Strand Education Endowment Foundation EEF</p>	1,2,3,4

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

Budgeted cost: **£71,897**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>Improve relationships in the following areas for disadvantaged students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peers • Teachers • Learning <p>Pupil progress meetings will support the development of stronger relationships. The meetings will be termly, including a starting point, interim review and summative meeting.</p>	<p>EEF - Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning, and levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with children's academic outcomes.</p> <p>Pupil Premium Lead is responsible for raising staff awareness, raise student aspirations, provide data analysis, to encourage and facilitate extracurricular sessions, improve attendance, and to mentor and nurture Pupil Premium students. In-house evidence of impacts being made in certain areas.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/metacognition-and-self-regulation</p>	2,4,5
<p>Emotional wellbeing support and training of the pastoral team, etc.</p>	<p>EEF - There is extensive evidence associating childhood social and emotional skills with improved outcomes at school and in later life, in relation to physical and mental health, school readiness and academic achievement, crime, employment and income.</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/metacognition-and-self-regulation</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teacher-professional-development</p>	2,4,5
<p>Career guidance. Development of a whole school plan plus individualised support via outside providers.</p>	<p>EEF - Strong careers information, advice and guidance, as well as educational experiences are listed in the top 10 approaches for disadvantaged pupils.</p>	2,3,5

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Staff will get training and release time to develop and implement new procedures.	EEF - Attendance is seen as one of the 7 Building Blocks for Success when supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils (EEF) https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/teacher-professional-development	4,5
Attendance/support officers to be appointed to improve attendance.	Embedding principles of good practice set out in DfE's Improving School Attendance advice.	
Contingency fund for acute issues.	Based on our experience, and those of similar schools to ours, we have identified a need to set aside a small amount of funding to respond quickly to needs yet to be identified.	All
Character and Culture leads to ensure staff provide and promote attendance to and participation in intra and inter school competitions / events / trips / music instrumental lessons / school show for all pupils, particularly disadvantaged students.	EEF - Effective identification of pupil needs, for example through diagnostic assessment to develop 'social confidence' and develop the character of students. Successful implementation of approaches. Effective monitoring and evaluation of approaches through student voice and questionnaires.	2,5

Total budgeted cost: £220,375

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 academic year.

Outcomes - The performance of disadvantaged students in 2025 is harder to compare against previous years due to not having Progress scores due to the students not sitting the SATs in Year 6 due to COVID-19. The overall attainment for pupil premium was 3.9, which is below the national attainment score of 4.7. The attainment figure does not take into account that students start at the school at a significantly lower standard than students nationally.

In 2025, Ebacc entry for disadvantaged was 85% which was significantly higher than the year previous which was 9%. Options were tailored to support more students completing the Ebacc subjects in Key Stage 4.

Areas for development

1. To continue to reduce the disadvantaged to none disadvantaged gap in 2026 outcomes
2. To continue to close the attainment gap against the national scores.

Quality of teaching - Teaching across the school has improved for the provision of disadvantaged students and this is a continued area of focus. Evidence based research and professional CPD will further enhance this during this academic year. The school's focus on implementing metacognition is an area of focus for teachers to develop in their practice. Use of CPD to further inform and share best practice in, will improve overall effectiveness of teaching.

The schools disadvantaged lead delivered sessions at whole school and department level to raise the profile of disadvantaged students by highlighting strategies to improve teaching. Learning walks have been completed to quality assure that the strategies have been put into action in the classroom.

Student voice has been very positive on the provision provided by the school to disadvantaged students for required ICT resources, equipment, uniform and revision materials.

Areas for development

1. Prioritising disadvantaged students work/assessments to be marked first.
2. Continue to develop the research based CPD programme to promote further improvement in student's literacy skills and high-quality teaching.

Literacy - We employ Access Reading tests to assess student reading ability on transition day (for Year 7) and during September (for Year 9), meaning we can assess student need and provide appropriate support.

Read Write Inc

Of the 2024-2025 Year 7 and Year 8 cohort Read Write Inc: Fresh Start intervention, 4 students were PP (of 18). The average progress of the Read Write Inc intervention in 2025-25 was +19 months. Students selected to participate in the intervention were significantly below the expected reading age and the intense phonics-based intervention is designed to support students in reaching age expected reading standards.

Library Lessons

Students in KS3 were also assessed during library lessons for reading fluency by our English Mentor. Library lessons driven to support reading aloud and reading fluency, with all students participating in appropriate reading. Time dedicated also to support students in engaging with Sparx Reader.

More students than previous years engaged with the Reading Passport – 80 texts were read from the reading passport and more badges for completion were handed out.

Sparx Reader has helped promote reading for pleasure with 2391 books completed by KS3 students in 2025-25. Pupil Premium Students, all of whom are tested on Sparx twice a year, who had a reading age below their actual age made 14 months of progress in their reading by May 2025.

Areas for development 2025-26:

1. Expand Lexia intervention to provide more support for students who have reading difficulties – ensure students have access at home and are supported in school.
2. Continue to improve engagement with reading by further improving Sparx engagement by PP students.

Meta-cognition and self-regulation skills - Metacognition has been interwoven into schemes of learning for all departments within the school. CPD on metacognition has been a major focus for the school, with the CPD plan incorporating session time on improving this. Along with resources from the National College, literature and sharing best practise with departments and school. Class routines are now more embedded to support positive learner behaviours.

Areas for development

1. Ensure that all classroom routines are fully embedded.
2. More regularly identify and reward positive behaviours of disadvantaged students and none disadvantaged students.
3. Develop independence and resilience in the disadvantaged students.

Attendance - Overall attendance for the school was in line with the national average, with the school attendance being +0.5% higher than the national 91.3%. Overall disadvantaged attendance was +0.4% higher than the national 86.2%, with disadvantaged students in Years 7, 8 and 9 students significantly above the national average. Strategies were in place to raise the attendance for disadvantaged students in Years 10 to be in line with the other year groups.

Areas for development

1. The school will increase the number of home visits for persistent absentees.
2. Continue to develop the careers and work experience programme to increase motivation and ambitions amongst the students.

Well-being – The school has provided a range of wrap around care, extra-curricular clubs and trips/visits which are either heavily subsidised or free of charge to disadvantaged students. Disadvantaged students have been highlighted as a priority for the trips/visits. This has included university visits, sporting fixtures, galleries and field trips.

Areas for development

1. To improve well-being further more disadvantaged students to be involved in these experiences.
2. Continue to develop the careers and work experience programme.

3. More closely monitor online engagement with online learning platforms and electronic resources.
4. Increase the number of disadvantaged students participating in extra-curricular activities such as Music lessons, School Show, Sports fixtures and House competitions.

Our assessments demonstrated that student behaviour, wellbeing and mental health were significantly impacted last year as we continued to recover from COVID-19 related issues. The impact was particularly acute for disadvantaged students. We used pupil premium funding to provide well-being support for all students, and targeted intervention where required, including use of the school councillor. We are continuing to build on this approach in our plan.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
Read, Write Inc	Ruth Miskin Training
Lexia	Lexia Learning
Sparx Reader	Sparx
GCSE Pod	An access company
Sparx Maths	Sparx
The PE Classroom	GCSE Classroom Ltd
Unifrog	Universal Destinations
IDL	Ascentis

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

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 pupils?	
Further information (optional)	