

# The Pupil Premium at Nottingham Free School



## What is the 'Pupil Premium'?

*Publicly funded schools in England get extra funding from the government to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. This is because evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds generally face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as their peers. In 2019-20, schools received £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11 for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (from April 2020 this grant per pupil increased to £955).*

(Adapted from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>)

## Which pupils at NFS are eligible for the pupil premium?

At NFS, approximately three out of every ten pupils are eligible for the pupil premium, which is a little above the national average of approximately two out of every ten. The pupil premium grant is intended to help schools improve or enrich their provision for disadvantaged pupils, with the ultimate goal of closing gaps in achievement in order to give every child exciting choices and chances when they leave school.

Schools start by analysing the distribution of their eligible pupils, and at NFS we consider year group, gender, ethnicity, special educational needs, attendance and prior attainment (Key Stage 2 SAT scores). In 2019-20, at NFS:

Three out of ten girls were eligible for the pupil premium.

Three out of ten boys were eligible for the pupil premium.

Two out of ten pupils with high KS2 attainment were eligible for the pupil premium.

Three out of ten pupils with middle KS2 attainment were eligible for the pupil premium.

Four out of ten pupils with low KS2 attainment were eligible for the pupil premium.

Four out of ten pupils on our SEND register were eligible for the pupil premium.

Six out of ten pupils who are persistently absent were eligible for the pupil premium.

Once schools are clear on the distribution of their eligible pupils, they consult the 'Teaching and Learning Toolkit' produced by the Education Endowment Foundation in order to plan how best to use their pupil premium allocation.

## How did NFS spend its pupil premium allocation for 2020?

In 2019-20, there were 122 pupils at NFS eligible for the pupil premium. This attracted a funding allocation of £114,070. The principal aim of our strategies is to ensure we help disadvantaged pupils to overcome their barriers to achievement through the following structures and programmes of support:

## **How did NFS enhance its teaching curriculum to benefit pupils eligible for the funding?**

At NFS, we employ teachers to deliver an extended school day with supported-study and enrichment sessions. This ensures, attendance permitting, that all pupils complete good quality homework. The evidence indicates that, on average, pupils make two additional months' progress per year from extended school time and in particular through the targeted use of before and after school programmes. There is some evidence that disadvantaged pupils benefit more, making closer to three months additional progress.

The second key strategy was to reduce the class sizes for GCSE maths lessons, by having five rather than four maths classes in year 11. As the size of a class or teaching group gets smaller, it is suggested that *"the range of approaches a teacher can employ and the amount of attention each student will receive will increase, improving outcomes for pupils"*.

### **Academic Mentoring**

Some of NFS's allocation was invested in additional mentoring and tutoring, especially for those pupils taking their public examinations in 2020. This support was tailored to the needs of individual pupils, with everything from weekly support sessions, to additional careers advice, to one-to-one tutoring. This support was linked to the enhanced curriculum offer, and resources that helped pupils to learn and revise more effectively.

### **Providing Social and Emotional Support and Improving Behaviour**

Some of NFS's allocation was invested into employing additional pastoral staff that provide support with everything from pupils' attendance to counselling for those affected by significant events in their lives beyond our school doors. The support and interventions of these staff often aim to improve pupils' ability to focus on their own learning and progress.

### **Support with School Essentials**

Some of NFS's allocation was invested in the provision of hardship funding, allowing us to help families to afford our school uniform costs when they join the school, providing school planners and basic equipment, providing free breakfasts and a cashless catering system, and ensuring that enrichment activities like school trips can be enjoyed by all pupils.

### **Alternative provision**

Some of NFS's allocation was invested in providing alternative educational provision for students that were unable to attend mainstream school. This is because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, that would not otherwise allow them to receive suitable education.

## Summary

Strategy Focus	2019-20 Pupil Premium Allocation
Curriculum Enhancement	£37,625
Academic tutoring	£4,986
Providing Social and Emotional Support and Improving Behaviour & Attendance	£41,545
Support with school essentials (uniform, study guides, etc.)	£1,954
Alternative Provision	£30,617
<b>Total</b>	<b>£114,070</b>

### What was the impact of NFS' pupil premium allocation for 2019-20 on Key Stage 4 outcomes?

The Department for Education publish a wide range of achievement statistics for schools every year on their 'compare school performance' website. The outcomes for 2020 were unique, as they were eventually based upon schools' Centre Assessment Grades, and so school level statistics are not being published. We can however report the following attainment outcomes and compare them against the benchmarks for 2019. It is important to note that the benchmarks for our local authority and England are for pupils who are not classed as disadvantaged.

	NFS PP pupils 2019	NFS PP pupils 2020	Nottingham City non-PP pupils 2019	England non-PP pupils 2019
No. of pupils	20	14	1,626	398,805
A8 score	39.8	43.6	47.2	50.3
English & maths at grade 5+	30 %	36 %	41 %	50 %
English & maths at grade 4+	60 %	57 %	64 %	72 %
EBacc at grade 5+	20 %	19 %	15 %	21 %
EBacc at grade 4+	25 %	38 %	22 %	29 %
Entering EBacc	30 %	36 %	37 %	45 %
A8 score for English	9.2	9.4	9.8	10.6
A8 score for maths	8.0	8.6	9.0	9.8
A8 score for EBacc subjects	11.1	12.1	13.6	14.7
A8 score for open subjects	11.5	13.5	14.8	15.2
Exam entries per pupil	7.4	8.1	8.7	8.4

We also use attendance and exclusion data as key indicators of students' wider engagement with school, and hence their ultimate achievement. In the following tables the statistics shown for 2019-20 are those relating to the first half of the academic year, before the national lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Attendance

At NFS we believe regular attendance at school is one of the most important indicators of future academic success. We therefore invest a significant amount of time and resources into supporting pupils who sometimes struggle to attend school regularly. Attendance at NFS continues to be a strength.

	All Pupils	Pupil Premium	Other Pupils	National secondary
2017 - 2018	95.9 %	94.0 %	96.4 %	95.6 %
2018 - 2019	96.2 %	94.9 %	96.5 %	95.7 %
2019 - 2020	96.4 %	95.8 %	96.6 %	95.1 %

Those pupils that miss more than 10% of school sessions in a year are classed as persistently absent. Despite the attendance of our pupil premium cohort being strong overall, we have a significant minority of our disadvantaged students (approximately 18) whose attendance fell below 90% in 2019-20. Support for these students will be prioritised in 2020-21.

	All Pupils	Pupil Premium	Other Pupils	National secondary
2017 - 2018	6.0 %	7.0 %	5.5 %	11.7 %
2018 - 2019	4.9 %	12.8 %	3.8 %	10.9 %
2019 - 2020	6.3 %	15.1 %	7.2 %	13.4 %

## Exclusions

Exclusions data can be presented in a number of ways. The table below shows the rate of exclusion for disadvantaged pupils compared to their peers. This is calculated by dividing the number of exclusions applied to a group of pupils by the number of pupils in that group. Overall, our exclusions have been reducing. Last year approximately 50% of the total number of exclusions were applied to pupil premium students (24/48 exclusions). A significant proportion of these exclusions were down to two disadvantaged students who accessed additional support through our pupil premium strategy. Both of these students are in a much more positive position as a result.

	All Pupils	Pupil Premium	Other Pupils	National secondary
2017 - 2018	12.2 %	36.9 %	10.7 %	7.6 %
2018 - 2019	8.4 %	13.8 %	5.2 %	7.6 %
2019 - 2020	8.2 %	22.0 %	2.7 %	7.6 %

## **How is NFS planning to spend its pupil premium allocation for 2020-21?**

As NFS has become well-established within its community, so the composition of its cohort has shifted to directly reflect its community. We are proud to serve the children who grow up in the homes around our school and we are determined to ensure that all of our students secure those exciting life choices and chances. Our broad approach will remain the same with our strategies coming under the headings used in this summary report:

- Further enhancing our curriculum provision, particularly for our pupils with lower attainment
- Providing additional academic mentoring and tutoring
- Providing Social and Emotional Support and Improving Behaviour
- Providing support with school essentials

NFS' school role in September 2020 currently includes 159 pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding, which will equate to £151,845. The impact of this additional funding will once again be primarily analysed through attendance, exclusion and achievement data, along with more qualitative feedback about individual case studies.

**Last updated: November 2020**

**Next review: September 2021**