



St Mary's Catholic School

Information on Pupil Premium 2017-18

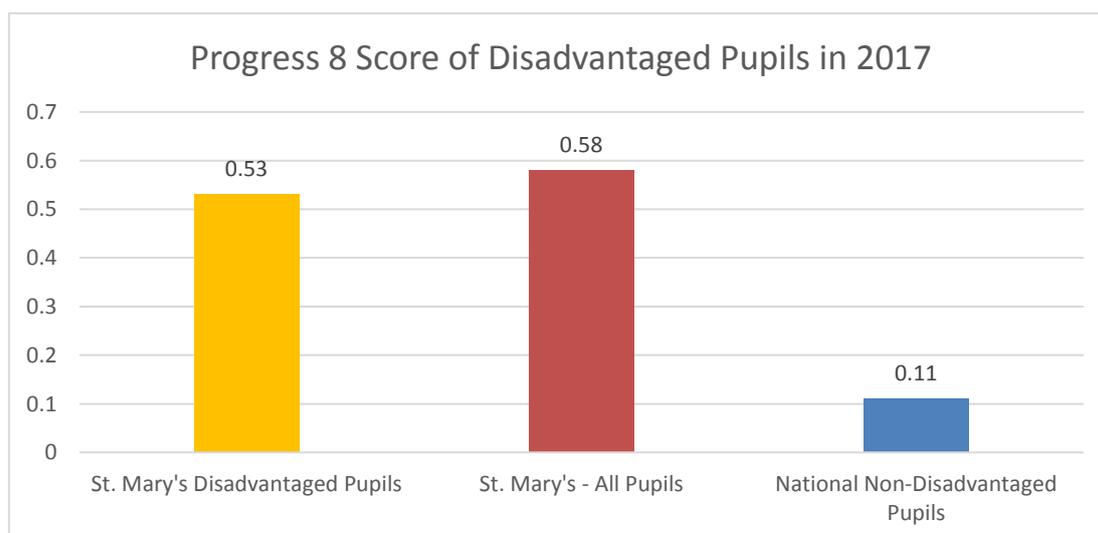
Introduction

The Pupil Premium is additional funding allocated to St Mary's Catholic School. It is used to support students who, within the last six years, have been registered for free school meals at any point or have been on Newcastle Local Authority's looked-after children register. Pupil Premium funding applies to children of service personnel too. St Mary's currently has 261 Pupil Premium students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, representing 24% of the school population in these year groups.

At St Mary's, we have an excellent record of closing the gap between our disadvantaged pupils and those who are not in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. We have the highest aspirations for all our pupils, regardless of social background, and allocate our resources so that they have maximum impact on pupil progress and learning. This is reflected in the fact that, year on year, our valued added scores, the expected progress that a pupil makes between Year 6 and Year 11, are significantly above national averages for both Pupil Premium students and non-Pupil Premium students. We are proud of this outstanding achievement.

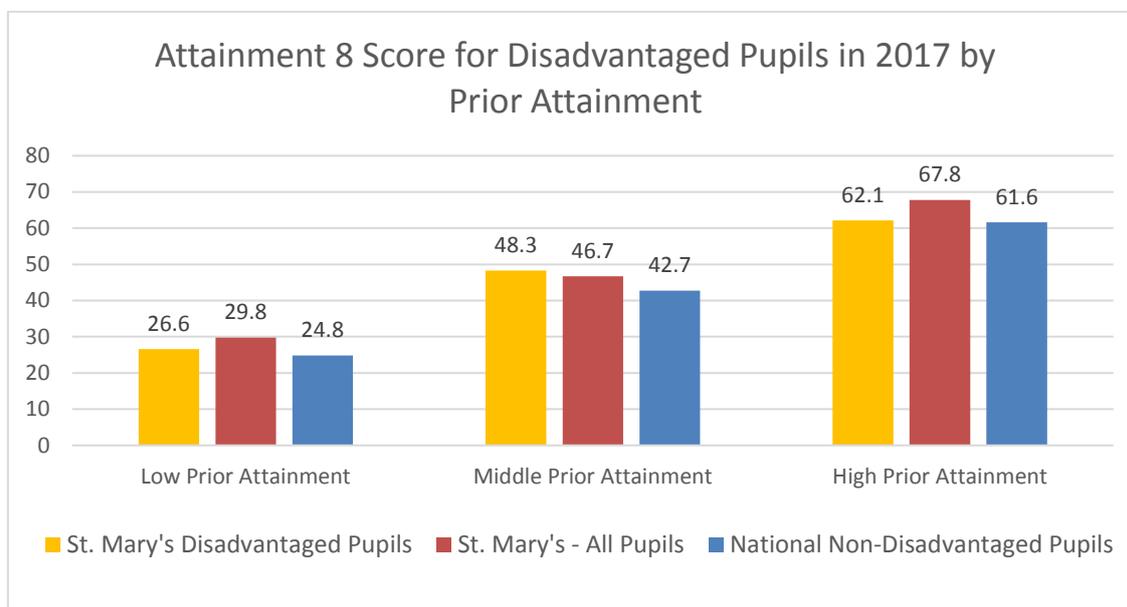
Student Progress

The bar chart below compares the progress made by our PP students in summer 2017 with all pupils at St Mary's and with all non-PP students nationally. As indicated in the Progress 8 score, the value-added measure across eight subjects, there was virtually no gap within the school. Furthermore, our PP students, on average, exceeded expected progress by more than half a grade, well above the national figure for non-disadvantaged students. This puts St Mary's Catholic School in the top 6% of schools across England according to this measure.



Student Attainment

When it comes to attainment, the performance of our disadvantaged students is equally impressive. In summer 2017, the achievement of our Pupil Premium students exceeded the national average score for non-disadvantaged students in each of the three prior attainment categories, as the chart below indicates.



Pupil Premium Allocations

The chart below indicates the school's allocation each year for Pupil Premium.

Academic Year	PP Allocation
2015-16	£227,000
2016-17	£231,000
2017-18	£244,000

Use of Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium funding allows our children to benefit from a range of strategies, including:

1. Fresh Start Literacy Programme

The evidence that higher literacy levels lead to greater examination success and improved life chances is overwhelming. At the start of Year 7, we gauge the literacy of all pupils using the Suffolk Reading Test. The students with the lowest reading levels follow a daily reading intervention programme, which, depending on need, can last for the whole of Key Stage 3. For children who find reading a particular challenge, the programme extends into Key Stage 4.

Cost: £20,000

Commentary

Pupils remain on the programme for as long as it is necessary. They work their way through a range materials and do so at a pace that is appropriate to each individual. Those pupils who attend these intensive literacy sessions make big gains in their reading ability. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that higher literacy levels are linked to both improved academic achievement and improved personal development. This is why we invest so much in improving the literacy levels of our pupils. This year, 19 of our Year 7 Pupil Premium students benefit from this intervention.

2. Reducing Class Sizes

Across the curriculum, there are many classes with fewer than fifteen students. Whilst smaller class sizes alone do not necessarily lead to improved attainment, they do allow for more one-to-one and small-group support from the teacher during the lesson. This improves outcomes considerably, especially in those groups where students require more intervention. What is more, smaller class sizes are a result of the high degree of flexibility within our curriculum. In short, this means that the vast majority of our Key Stage 4 pupils study subjects that are most suited to their needs and preferences.

Cost: £100,000

Commentary

All our Pupil Premium students benefit from this strategy. In 2017-18, across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, there are 88 classes with 15 students or fewer. In fact, 27 of these classes have 10 students or fewer.

3. Additional Maths and English classes

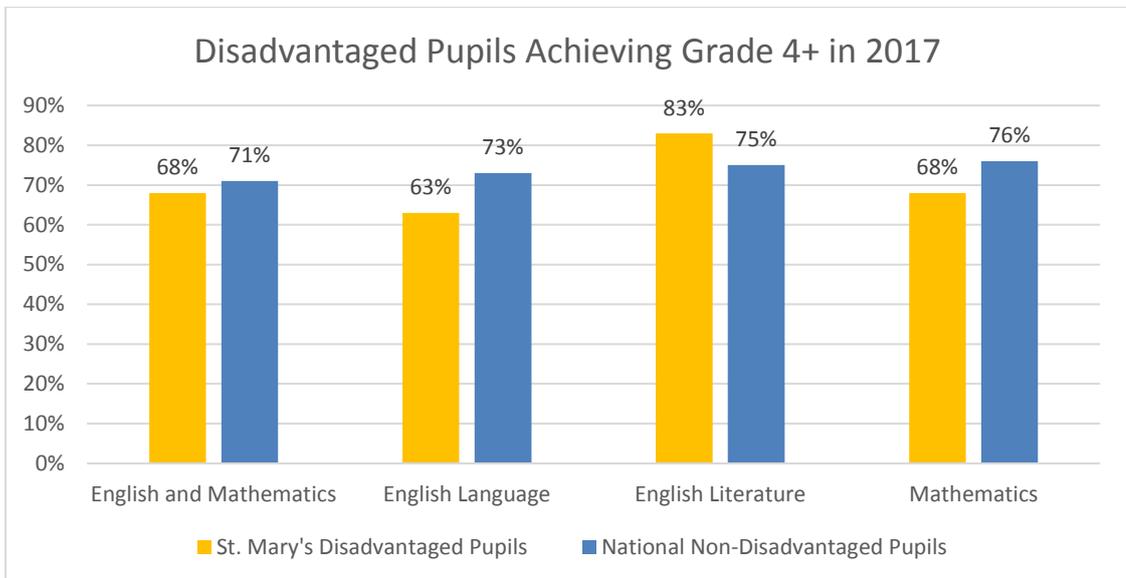
We have created additional classes in maths and English across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to provide our more vulnerable students with extra support in the most important areas of the curriculum. These classes are run at times when it is possible and appropriate to withdraw these students from other lessons. For example, some pupils in Key Stage 3 study only one modern foreign language instead of two. This time is spent catching up on literacy and numeracy.

We also run intensive tutor-time maths, English and science sessions for small groups of Year 11 pupils in the spring and summer terms. Underachieving socially disadvantaged pupils are a specific target group for this intervention strategy, which has been very successful over the last few years.

Cost: £50,000

Commentary

In summer 2017, as the figures below demonstrate, the achievement of our Pupil Premium students in maths and English was outstanding. There was only a 4% difference between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students gaining a Level 4 or above in both maths and English. In English Literature, the gap disappeared entirely.



4. Pastoral Care

Improving behaviour, attendance and punctuality across all year groups continues to be an important element at St Mary's in the drive to raise the attainment of all students, particularly those in receipt of Pupil Premium and those from 'Just About Managing' families. This year we have strengthened further the leadership of pastoral care within the main school through the appointment of key stage leaders for all three key stages. They now provide leadership responsibility for pastoral provision within their respective key stage, which includes heads of year. We have very high standards in relation to behaviour, attendance and punctuality, and intervene swiftly when these standards are not being met. Closing any gap in punctuality and attendance between our Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium students is a specific focus this year. What is more, in 2016 the school appointed an associate senior leader to lead, monitor and evaluate Pupil Premium provision across the school, enhancing the academic, pastoral and holistic development of all Pupil Premium students.

Cost: £25,000

5. Additional Learning Support Assistants

Learning support assistants play a vital role in raising achievement across the school. By giving one-to-one support during lessons and ensuring that key concepts are firmly grasped and knowledge and understanding is consolidated, learning support assistants offer essential support to those teachers who work with our most vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils. What is more, learning support assistants also provide one-to-one guidance for pupils on the early morning Fresh Start literacy programme. The Pupil Premium Grant allows us to employ two extra learning support assistants.

Cost: £34,000

6. Financial Support for Enrichment

All pupils are encouraged and given opportunities to extend their learning and achieve outside the classroom. Pupil Premium funds have allowed the school to subsidise a range of activities for disadvantaged students, including residential trips in the UK and abroad, and diocesan residential retreats. We also subsidise music lessons and subsidise the purchase of musical instruments for our most disadvantaged students. At St Mary's, we insist that social disadvantage is not a barrier to full participation in extra-curricular activity.

Cost: £12,000

7. General Financial Support

At St Mary's, we support our pupils in whatever way we can. Pupil Premium funds have also been used to subsidise uniform and general school equipment, such as stationery and PE kit.

Cost: £3,000