



# **Pupil Development Grant School Statement**

**2025 - 2026**

# Summary of PDG Strategy Statement

## Part A: Statement of Intent Summary

The school is committed to ensuring that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds—particularly those eligible for free school meals (FSM) and looked-after children—achieve equitable outcomes, access, and opportunities. The strategy is based on understanding pupils' barriers, applying evidence-informed practice, and monitoring progress throughout the year.

The school's approach focuses on four principles:

1. **Access & Achievement:** Strengthening quality-first teaching and implementing the Curriculum for Wales effectively.
2. **Attendance:** Removing barriers, engaging parents early, and improving attendance through targeted intervention.
3. **Awareness:** Ensuring staff understand the FSM cohort and can target support effectively.
4. **Aspirations:** Raising expectations and fostering both academic and behavioural excellence.

Key challenges identified include:

- Lower FSM attendance than non-FSM pupils
- Lower attainment (Capped 9 score gap) than non-FSM pupils
- Weaker literacy and numeracy skills than non-FSM pupils
- Financial barriers affecting uniform, resources, and enrichment
- Higher rates of behaviour sanctions and exclusions for FSM pupils

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## Intended Outcomes Summary

By the end of the strategy cycle, the school aims to achieve:

### Attainment

- Reduce the Capped 9 attainment gap so FSM pupils achieve within 20 points of non-FSM peers.
- Ensure FSM performance meets or exceeds the national average for FSM.

### Literacy & Numeracy

- FSM pupils' standardised scores and LNF progress are in line with non-FSM peers.

## Attendance

- Reduce the FSM/non-FSM attendance gap by 3%.
- Reduce persistent absenteeism through targeted support.

## Behaviour & Engagement

- FSM and non-FSM pupils show minimal difference in behaviour and achievement indicators.

## Access & Participation

- Socioeconomic background should not limit access to the curriculum, wider school life, or opportunities.

## Parental Engagement

- 100% engagement from FSM parents with school communication and progress events.

## Broader Curriculum

- Increase FSM participation in enrichment activities and develop confidence, creativity, and engagement.

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## Teaching & Learning: Budgeted cost: £128,290

### Summary

Funds will be allocated to activities that:

- Strengthen **quality-first teaching** across the school
- Provide **targeted literacy and numeracy interventions**
- Improve access to the curriculum through **specialist staff support**
- Ensure the curriculum is **personalised** and meets diverse learner needs
- Increase staff capacity to support FSM pupils through **professional development**
- Raise aspirations through improved target setting and data analysis
- Improve access to curriculum materials, enrichment, cultural capital, and wellbeing resources

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## Community-Focused Schools: Budgeted cost: £44,571

### Summary

Spending will support initiatives that:

- Strengthen **parental engagement** to improve attainment and relationships
- Improve staff skills to effectively involve families in learning
- Support **transition** and curriculum alignment with partner primary schools
- Maintain provision that promotes pupil readiness for learning
- Enhance communication between home and school
- Provide family support to identify needs early and improve engagement

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## Wider Strategies: Budgeted cost: £34,139

### Summary

Funding will be used to:

- Strengthen pastoral support for disadvantaged pupils
- Provide targeted behaviour, welfare, and aspirations support
- Embed a whole-school approach (the "Golden Thread") ensuring staff consider the FSM lens in decision-making
- Offer mentoring to improve aspirations and learning behaviours
- Support wellbeing, cultural capital, and access to experiences that broaden pupil development