Pupil premium strategy statement – Villa Real Special School 2026-2029

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 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	130
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	50% (78% FSM)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers **(3-year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement each academic year)**	2O26-29
Date this statement was published	October 2026
Date on which it will be reviewed	October 2027
Statement authorised by	Jill Bowe
Pupil premium lead	Jill Bowe
Governor / Trustee lead	Ivan Jewell

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£ 89700
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*	£ 89700

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

- To improve lives and access to whole curriculum for pupils with complex medical needs
- To improve attendance by a strategic approach to the causes including transport, anxiety and overcrowding issues
- To deepen use of alternative provision to strengthen curriculum
- Funding is used strategically across the school, through bespoke methodology and also at an individual level
- Key principle is strategic planning, deliver, review, monitor and evaluate

Challenges

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

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Pupils have a range of severe medical needs or disabilities including those with Ultra rare conditions
2	Pupils suffer from anxiety and especially at transition or times of change e.g. transport issues
3	Some pupils struggle to access overcrowded school building
4	Pupils all have severe learning difficulties which impacts on their basic literacy and numeracy
5	Pupils all need improved life skills as their needs make them vulnerable in the community

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
• To improve lives and access to whole curriculum for pupils with complex medical needs	Pupils are all supported to attend school or alternative provision to their best of ability by use of improved medical support. Physical interventions are deepened to extend physical development.
• To improve attendance by a strategic approach to the causes including transport, anxiety and overcrowding issues	Pupils' attendance improves through the removal of barriers and use of DFE toolkit

• To deepen use of alternative provision to strengthen curriculum	Pupils accessing Alternative Provision make significant progress at a holistic level
• To improve basic literacy and numeracy	Pupils make accelerated progress from their very low starting points
• To prepare pupils for adulthood	Pupils are prepared for adulthood and have improved chances of community participation

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: *£5000*

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Bespoke literacy Pathways	Utilising Reading and Writing frameworks and using a synthetic phonics programme from DFE	4
Bespoke numeracy pathways	Utilising DFE teaching mathematics in Primary school and KS 3 docs	4
Increased range of Preparation of Adulthood activities	Durham County Council Preparation for Adulthood working party and pilot	5

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

Budgeted cost: £15750

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed

Active Listener support for those with anxiety	Range of mental health documents at DFE level	1,2
Reviews and monitoring re pupils on AP	Making a Difference with effective tutoring EEF	3

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

Budgeted cost: £68950

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
Use of forensic attendance procedures following DFE advice	DFE Attendance toolkit	1
Deepen procedures and challenge re lack of medical information to support medical needs	Working with medical officer to address DCC issues	1,2
Deepen interventions for physical; development	Extend use of coaches and sustainable therapies and PE development	1,2
Improve careers offer to widen work experience and life skills opportunities	Gatsby benchmarking and SSND White paper	5

Total budgeted cost: £ *89700*

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

Pupils show greater range of opportunities including Duke of Edinburgh, residentials and Wild Passport.	Fully met
Greater variety of visits mapped against careers, work experience substantive and disciplinary knowledge and PSHCE.	Fully met and tracked
Greater evidence of awareness of safe relationships and socialisation in line with Keeping Safe in Education 2025.	Fully met
Attendance persistent absentees	2 moved to elective home education and AP
3 groups complete Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. Wild Passport embedded across the schools.	Fully met
Work experience booklets evidence greater variety of opportunities for 14-19. Encompass plus 100%. New business links established. Ensure life skills promote literacy and numeracy. Greater range of work experience and volunteering opportunities inc. extended DAAC offer to younger group. Correlate with PSHCE and Keeping Safe in Education 2025.	Fully met but continuing to extend range.
Greater evidence of awareness of safe relationships and socialisation	Fully met and ongoing

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information: **How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year**
Communication support
The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils

Communication more accessible