

## Pupil premium 2018-21 Strategy – Beacon Hill Community School

1. Summary information					
<b>School</b>	Beacon Hill Community School				
<b>Academic Year</b>	2019-20	<b>Total PP budget</b>	£53,295	<b>Date of most recent PP Review</b>	October 2019
<b>Total number of pupils</b>	124	<b>Number of pupils eligible for PP</b>	57	<b>Date for next internal review of this strategy</b>	January 2020

2. Current attainment 2017 and 2018 Results			
	Pupils eligible for PP	Pupils not eligible for PP	Pupils not eligible for PP (national average)
<b>Progress 8 score average 2017, 18 and 19</b>	-0.89 2017 -0.44 2018 -0.49 2019 (excl outliers)	-0.93 2017 -0.13 2018 -0.39 2019	0.11 (2017)
	Difference 2017 +0.04 Difference 2018 -0.31 and improvement of +0.45 Difference 2019 -0.1		
<b>Attainment 8 score average 2017, 18 and 19</b>	37.1 2017 33.1 2018 33.5 2019	35.3 2017 40.8 2018 40.3 2019	49.76 (2017)
	Difference 2017 +1.8 Difference 2018 -7.7 Difference 2019 -6.8		

## **Background and Context**

Our outcomes at Summer 2019 were comparable to last year excluding outliers (two students, one of which had severe mental health issues and one who was not educated at our school due to behavioural and other issues). Our PP students achieved broadly the same as last year and the difference narrowed considerably. Taking into account an exceptionally small cohort (16 students excluding two outliers) and 44% of the whole year group being PP, these results were in line with our expectations. Attainment was disappointing, albeit similar to 2018, but it should be noted that our overall cohorts are very small and therefore more skewed by students' prior attainment than other, bigger schools, who have a more standard distribution profile within their year groups.

The similarity of results between 2018 and 2019 is not indicative of a failure of our PP strategy – overall our students achieved a P8 of -0.49 which is a huge improvement from 2017 and is comparable to 2018. The high proportion of PP students in this year group and in the school as a whole, plus the exceptional achievement of several of our PP students is an indicator of our strategies working, and working well.

Of 8 students, two achieved above P8 of 0, including one student who achieved over 1 grade above his target in every subject. Two more were above floor target while one with an EHCP achieved just under floor target – a huge achievement for that particular student. One was excluded towards the very end of year 11. (do we want to say that?)

Those students that sat English Literature achieved an overall P8 of 0, compared to non-PP score of -0.38. Maths PP students also out-performed non-PP. Similarly in Trilogy, French, Geography and Engineering our PP students outperformed their non-PP peers, and in Food and PE the gap was negligible or P8 was positive overall.

Our aim this year is to achieve a positive P8 of 0. across the whole cohort, and for PP students to achieve as well as others both internally and nationally.

## Barriers to Achievement

**While we have had improved results in 2018 and sustained them in 2019, we are still striving to achieve more for our students, and for them to achieve at least as well as similar students nationally.** We continue the work started last year, with an outward facing ethos that is helping our students, who are used to swimming in a small pond, to experience the same quality of teaching as the best students in other schools. Working as a Federation with another small school locally is giving us some additional flexibility, but we are also pushing forward with support from local outstanding schools. We want our students to understand what outstanding effort and achievement looks like, so they are more likely to be able to achieve what they are capable of.

Our school is breaking new ground in terms of an entirely new curriculum aligned to the local labour market, and also exposure to cultural and social experiences that will result in an improvement in our students cultural and social capital. This is an innovative approach in this area, and one that is very much welcomed by our students and stakeholders.

However, we still have some barriers to overcome, and have high expectations – our School Improvement Plan is challenging students to achieve a positive Progress 8 score of at least 0 this year, so our PP strategy must contribute to that objective.

Our barriers are:

1. **Attendance at school** – we have included in our school development plan significant resources to improve attendance as it is not yet at national levels, and is an area of concern for us. It is clear from our internal data that good attendance does have a significant impact on progress and attainment. Therefore, we will continue to allocate a proportion of time, effort and financial input to improve attendance for all students, and PP students in particular.
2. **Exam Performance** – we know that our students do not perform well in exams, even when they have worked hard, and this is particular true of lower attaining students. This is evidenced clearly in our 2018 faculty reviews, whose analysis of exam performance clearly shows that while our books and lessons show knowledge, progress and deep learning, our students cannot turn this into successful exam performance. Therefore we feel that this is something for us to work towards, using PP funding to partially support, and which will improve results still further.
3. **Mastery of the basics** in Maths and literacy, especially at KS3. Without structured skills acquisition in literacy and numeracy, we cannot build to good achievement at KS4.

4. **Behavioural, emotional and mental health needs** – it is clear from our own experience over recent years and that of recent research (e.g. Shaw et al, 2017) that pupil led factors, including behavioural and emotional issues and peer group attitudes, can impact significantly on the progress of students. For that reason we continue to choose to spend some of our PP grant supporting the emotional and mental health of our students and inspiring in them a sense of pride in our school. This work, carried out by our behaviour support and safeguarding teams as well as teachers and support staff on a day to day basis, is key to supporting all of the work we do to overcome our in-school barriers, and directly contribute to the outcomes and success of the specific interventions noted below. However, not all success is in terms of progress and attainment, hence some of our success criteria for this specific barrier are related to softer measures; students remaining in school, improving behaviour etc, which should in turn indirectly result in better attainment than would have been the case.

Our **external barriers** include:

5. **Aspirations and access to work** – the economy of our local area continues to rely on specific industry areas, such as engineering, nuclear, manufacturing, the NHS. Cultural and social capital is identified by several thinkers, including Rich (2015) and Tassoni (2017) as a key in diminishing the difference. While Shaw et al (2017) argue that aspirations do not necessarily have a direct effect on attainment, they also argue that there is evidence that a lack of information about career pathways and the impact of progress and GCSE results on career choices can improve understanding and therefore aspiration to achieve in some groups of students. Indeed, our Governors, some of whom had students who sat exams in 2018, believe that an improvement in careers information and direction, and higher expectations in terms of next steps, has been pivotal in improving outcomes in 2018.
6. **Isolation and small town syndrome**– Tassoni also notes novel experiences as key to improving social capital. Our location is within a stone's throw of the lake district, but many of our students have not climbed Skiddaw or kayaked in the River Derwent. This lack of exposure to the exciting experiences available on our doorstep can only be negative to the life experiences and cultural and social capital of our students.

Our school ethos also takes into account that attainment is not the only measure, nor the only one by which we wish to be measured. Mowat (2018), in considering the drive for closing the attainment gap in Scotland, argued that holistic approaches are probably most effective – arguing that not only that schools are not the sole lever of change, but also that performativity skews how we teach, leading to short term improvements which are not necessarily sustainable or the most appropriate for our particular set of circumstances. We want to avoid this short-termism and putting too much store in the outcomes of one particular cohort. We also want to be cognisant of our school values and ethos in deriving a set of actions and interventions that are around the whole child, so some of our interventions and activities are focused on improving their social skills, self-awareness and so on, which in turn should improve their learning and therefore attainment from what it would have been without our help.

As in previous years, our approach in improving our school not only considers current students, but also improvement in general; in teaching, learning, leadership and so on. Our engagement with primary schools and the wider community is essential in ensuring that we do all we can to support our students to be the best they can be. That means our strategy is wider than the most recent set of results – it is a set of actions that will drive improvement for many years to come, not a quick fix to address the (for example) literacy issues of on particular cohort. Coupled with our small size, and therefore even bigger potential to skew results, gaps, needs one way then the other, we firmly believe that taking the long view is the way to improve.

Mowat also argues that schools are just one strand of the societal, political and economic efforts that must combine together to make a difference; this again we firmly believe and our outward facing approach, working in collaboration with other schools, key stakeholders including parents and politicians, building capability and aspirations in conjunction with others will make a difference to our students. This is not necessarily reflected in our pupil premium strategy and specific actions for this year, last year, or future years, but underpins our approach to school improvement and student attainment as a whole.

## Overall Desired Outcomes

**Overall** Our PP students make more progress during the year and by the end of each year than our non-PP students, thereby narrowing the difference.

**Success Criteria:** The difference diminishes between PP and non PP students to 0 and PP students achieve a positive P8 of +0 in 2019 results.

## **Specific Approaches**

Our approach to more specific desired outcomes are aligned to our barriers noted above. Our specific focus at any point in time will be informed by our ongoing data analysis of current progress and attainment data, for students in years 7-11; our small size means we cannot solely focus on any gaps or issues identified through our analysis of Y11 GCSE results.

- **Better attendance by all PP students.** If students are in school, they are able to make progress. If they are not in school, they cannot make progress.
- **Success criteria:** PP students individually and as a group attend at least as well as non-PP students and also achieve a cumulative 95% attendance on average over the year.
- **Improve exam performance.** It is clear from recent year's results, as well as internal discussions with Subject and Faculty Leads following analysis of 2018 exam performance, that our students are not as successful as they should be in terms of the actual exams. The difference between the work we see in books and exam performance in both mock and formal exams is significant. We believe this is linked to literacy and ability to decode what the exam question is asking; the EEF notes that reading comprehension strategies can have significant impact on the progress of students albeit based on KS1 and 2 research. Research has further identified a 'word gap' that, the researchers believe, has a significant impact on performance in formal tests (Cain and Oakhill, 2018). Coupled with our mastery approach to Literacy noted below, we feel that interventions related to the direct improvement of question comprehension and therefore understanding of what is required in formal examinations will have a direct impact in performance in exams as well as other benefits. We will also focus on repetition of exam questions to improve familiarisation with the mechanics of sitting exams.
- **Success criteria:** PP students do better in exams as a group than non-PP students, overturning the difference.

- **Mastery of the basics in Maths and literacy.** Again EEF have identified this as a key strategy for improving attainment. Our approach is daily 'SI' (Structured Intervention) lessons to ensure repetition of the basics working towards mastery, by addressing these basics on a daily basis.
- **Success criteria:** KS3 PP students make better progress in English and Maths than non-PP students.
- **Improved behaviour.** Shaw et al (2017) note that supporting students with emotional and behavioural needs can help to address lower progress at secondary school. We support our students by providing a framework of pastoral support and ensuring that they are well supported in accessing, for example, homework clubs and resources as well as mentoring opportunities and 1-2-1 interventions to support particular issues. EEF identifies SEL interventions as having a moderate impact.
- **Success criteria:** PP students stay in school (less exclusions), have a reducing behaviour incident profile (less isolations) and attend school regularly (better attendance).
- **LLMAC Curriculum.** Our innovative approach to designing a new curriculum for year 9 upwards was launched this year. Aligned to the local labour market, we believe this will give our students cutting edge experience and knowledge that will ensure they have better chances when they leave us.
- **Success Criteria:** Improvement in P8
- **Improving cultural and social capital.** Tassoni and others have identified social and cultural capital as key to improving life chances. Our approach is to create experiences in a brand new 'Cumbrian Award'.
- **Success Criteria:** Improvement in P8. Successfully achieve Cumbrian Award
- **Specific interventions tailored to individual students and groups of students** – because of the high proportion of PP students in our school, we feel that sweeping interventions to focus solely on PP students is not fair on the rest of the year groups, and a tailored approach is much more appropriate for our students. This means we will allocate a proportion of our funding to supporting teachers, support staff and teaching assistants in identifying and delivering things that will work for individuals and small groups, tailored directly to those individuals and small groups.
- **Success Criteria:** PP students make better progress, based on their individual starting points, as a result of the tailored interventions.