

A guide to

# Pupil Premium Reviews

December 2018

## Achieving greater impact with Pupil Premium funding

Since their introduction in 2013 pupil premium reviews have helped hundreds of schools to refine their work with disadvantaged pupils and spend the pupil premium more effectively. Good pupil premium reviews are normally associated with improved pupil outcomes. Evidence is at the heart of this drive for effectiveness so this guide uses an evidence-based approach to assess the effectiveness of a school's pupil premium strategy, and identify how it might be refined to make greater impact. This will normally involve adjusting the way the funding is used.

We all know time is short for disadvantaged pupils in our schools to realise their potential, so it is more vital than ever that the decisions about using the funding are part of an effective strategy. While accelerating the progress of disadvantaged pupils can be complex, schools in every region - including Pupil Premium Award-winners, Teaching Schools and high achieving schools - are delivering high standards for disadvantaged pupils every year.

### When should schools commission a review?

All schools will usually find that a review will offer new approaches or improve the implementation of existing strategies. You should consider how a pupil premium review best fits with your on-going cycle of improvement to identify when you would most benefit from a fresh perspective. A review will be a priority for any school where disadvantaged pupils are not meeting expected levels, or slow progress means they are failing to realise their potential.

Ofsted will recommend that a school commissions a review if, during a section 5 inspection, it identifies specific issues regarding the provision for disadvantaged pupils.

In some cases Ministers, an RSC team, local authority, or the organisation involved in running the school, academy or free school may recommend that a review is commissioned if there are concerns about the attainment or progress of the school's disadvantaged pupils.

Where a school receives a review recommendation it is important that action is taken promptly – you should start the process of commissioning a review within two weeks and should aim to have the initial visit within eight weeks.

Where appropriate, you may also consider including early years provision when you commission a review. You don't have to publish information about how you spend the early years pupil premium (EYPP), however it is helpful if schools with nurseries consider how they use the EYPP when developing their pupil premium strategy.

### What happens during a review?

The review is designed to be a collaborative process. Once you have agreed with your reviewer on any specific priorities you will arrange for them to spend a day or so on-site, talking to the school's leaders and staff. You will be asked to send them a completed self-evaluation before the visit to provide context and a starting point. They will discuss your own view of what is working well and what could work better, and will come to some conclusions about possible ways to boost pupil progress. They will work with you on a plan of action to refine the way you support disadvantaged pupils and use the pupil premium.

## How long does a pupil premium review take?

An effective pupil premium review will usually take three and a half days. This includes:

- a day of preparatory work in advance of time spent in the school
- a day spent in the school under review
- a day to complete the necessary analysis and to write up the findings and recommendations (action plan)
- a further half-day follow-up visit.

Please note that Leicester Teaching School expects the supported school to spend up to one day in advance of the school visit undertaking self-evaluation.

## Who pays for the external review and how much will it cost?

Commissioning schools or academy trusts pay for their pupil premium review. The cost is agreed at the outset by Leicester Teaching School together with the commissioning school / academy trust, and will reflect the amount of time involved in the review.

Currently, a three and a half day review will cost £1,750 to include planning, preparation and travel. At the end of the review the school will have an improved strategy and plans to implement it. Please note that any support beyond the initial review will need to be funded separately.

## What about small schools with limited budgets?

Reviews of groups of schools can lead to the possibility of ongoing peer support networks. Heads of small schools who are looking to commission a review might speak to other local heads to see if a joint review could work for them.

## Reviewing pupil premium across a multi-academy trust or federation

A review of pupil premium across all the schools in a multi academy trust or federation would be managed differently from a review of a single school. The starting point would be to use [this](#) guidance to carry out self-reviews across the MAT/federation; this could be followed by input from an experienced external reviewer.

## What role do local governing boards play in pupil premium reviews?

School governing boards and the board of trustees of multi-academy trusts have a crucial role to play in providing constructive challenge to a school's pupil premium strategy, as set out in their three core functions<sup>4</sup>.

Sometimes a school is asked to commission an external review of governance alongside a pupil premium review; this is often carried out by a National Leader of Governance.

These reviews should be commissioned from separate specialist reviewers, though you will wish to ensure collaborative working between the reviewers. System leaders undertaking these different reviews should discuss with each other and the school how they will provide consistent advice and support.

## Request for Pupil Premium Review

<b>School / Academy</b>		<b>Date of request</b>		<b>OFFICE USE</b> PP Ref:
<b>Reason for request</b>				
<p>Please give specific detail on the reason why you are requesting a Pupil Premium Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ofsted recommendation</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Part of due diligence</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Other</b></li> </ul>				
Please confirm that you have received and read the Leicester Teaching School guide to Pupil Premium Reviews, and that you agree to the proposed structure and costs.				
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Position:</b>		
<b>Date:</b>		4		
<b>When is the review required?</b>				
<b>Contact details of requesting school</b>	<b>Requesting School:</b> <b>Contact Name:</b> <b>Contact email:</b> <b>Contact Phone Number:</b> <b>Contact Address:</b>			

Please return this form to Debbie Chauhan at [teachingschool@rushey-tmet.uk](mailto:teachingschool@rushey-tmet.uk)