



Ifield Community College - Supporting Disadvantaged Students Policy

Approved by Governing Body 14th March 2024

Date of next review: March 2025

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Aims

At Ifield Community College we strongly believe that all students should be attaining at the highest level at which they are capable. They should have experiences and support to enable them to grow into well rounded, successful and confident adults. Our expectations of their achievement and behaviour should be as high as for Non disadvantaged students. The Pupil Premium is a government initiative that injects extra finance into schools according to the number of disadvantaged students in the school. The government has used entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM), Children Looked After (CLA) and children of Service Personnel as indicators of deprivation or need and have provided a fixed amount of money for schools per pupil based on the number of students eligible.

Thus, the following students are on our disadvantaged roll based on the DofE definition of a disadvantaged student. Those who: -

- are presently receiving FSM
- have been in receipt of FSM in the last 6 years
- have a parent or guardian in the services
- have been recently adopted from authority care.
- are presently CLA

Pupil Premium funding is not intended to be 'ring-fenced' and spent on a particular child but rather to be used to narrow the gap in attainment of this group as a whole by investing in successful strategies. Although there is evidence for a gap in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged, the reasons for this are complex and often subtle. Thus, there is no 'one size fits all' solution to solving these challenges.

Key Principles

By following the key principles below, we believe we can use our Pupil Premium funding to achieve maximum impact:

Raising Aspiration

- Staff believe in all children and have the highest expectation of achievement and behaviour regardless of whether students are disadvantaged or not.
- There are no excuses made for underperformance against the students' targets based on their ability.
- There is a 'solution based' approach to overcoming barriers to learning and behaviour.
- Students are supported to develop high but realistic expectations of what they can achieve both academically and in personal growth.
- Underachievement at all levels will be targeted
- Careers education will target disadvantaged students to ensure aspirations are high.

Analysing Data

- We will track the achievement of disadvantaged students against other students to ensure that strategies we invest in have an impact on 'narrowing the gap' between the two groups.
- We will use data in order to remain aware of how all students are doing against their targets.
- We will use data to evaluate strategies to ensure they have a positive impact on the achievement of disadvantaged students.

Identification of Students

- All teaching staff and support staff are aware of who their disadvantaged students are and will ensure that their teaching/support is sufficiently meeting the needs of those students.
- All disadvantaged students will benefit in some way from funding.

Procedures to Maximise Achievement of Disadvantaged Students

Current priorities for supporting disadvantaged students to achieve are detailed in the Pupil Premium Strategy available on the school website along with the ways in which funding has been used to achieve them.