



## Tonbridge Grammar School Pupil Premium Policy

### Statement

At Tonbridge Grammar School we are committed to promoting educational aspiration and supporting social mobility, making a positive difference to the life chances of students at and beyond the School. Our focus is to make sure that the educational experience is inclusive for all students by supporting and raising the attainment of disadvantaged students through their educational learning in school as well providing life opportunities through extra-curricular activities.

### Overview

The pupil premium grant is received by Tonbridge Grammar School (“the School”) by means of a specific grant based on school census figures for students registered as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Years 7 – 11. The purpose of the additional funding is to raise the attainment of disadvantaged students and support students with parents in the armed forces.

The School’s spending decisions are informed by research evidence, including the Education Endowment Foundation’s Pupil Premium Guide.

### Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium [allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2025 to 2026](#) and guidance on [using the pupil premium](#), [virtual school heads’ responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service pupil premium](#) from the Department for Education (DfE).

### Uses of the Grant

The pupil premium grant is used to provide additional educational or pastoral support to enhance the progress and to raise the standard of achievement for these students and to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers. It is recognised that not all students eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. The grant will be used to help improve students’ progress and attainment and provide wider strategies so they can reach their full potential in all aspects of their school experience.

The School uses the additional funding to address underlying inequalities between children eligible for the pupil premium and others. The School endeavours to ensure that the additional funding benefits the students who need it most and that it makes an impact on their education and lives. Evidence shows that academically able students from disadvantaged backgrounds are most at risk of under-performing. These students should receive just as much focus as less academically able students.

The use of the pupil premium aligns with the approaches included in the DfE’s ‘menu of approaches’ and is informed by research evidence, such as the [guide published by the Education Endowment Foundation \(EEF\)](#). Further detail is set out in the annual Pupil Premium Statement (available on the website in line with the conditions of grant).

### Pupil Premium Policy

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Review level: Head Teacher

## Responsibilities

The Head Teacher and Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for:

- Ensuring all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged students and supporting students with parents in the armed forces.
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate.
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of students eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the School's use of the funding.
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to trustees annually. In addition, the Board has appointed a trustee with specific responsibility for liaising with the School to monitor the pupil premium strategy.
- Publishing the pupil premium strategy statement on the School's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the website, in line with the DfE's [guidance on using the pupil premium](#) and using the templates on GOV.UK.
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged students and raising attainment.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring the School is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant.
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of students eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the School's use of the funding.
- Monitoring whether the School is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium.
- Setting the School's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the School community.

The Pupil Premium Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Maintaining a register of students in receipt of pupil premium funding and Free School Meals and updating the student records accordingly
- Promoting the Pupil Premium Promise to families of current and future students.
- Liaising with the Finance Team to arrange payments as necessary.

All staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis.
- Setting high expectations for all students, including those eligible for the pupil premium
- Using data to monitor students and implementing interventions where necessary.
- Identifying students whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions and highlighting these individuals to the subject leader so that strategies can be reviewed.
- Providing feedback to the relevant curriculum director through the reporting schedule round-robins and where additional support may be required.
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff.

## Strategies

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The pupil premium grant is clearly identifiable within the budget. The School decides how the pupil premium is spent for the benefit of students. The School assesses what additional provision could be made for individual students.

The School offers a pupil premium promise to those students in receipt of the grant. Decisions on pupil premium spending takes account of the School's context and the opportunities it offers within its pupil premium promise.

Students' individual needs are taken into account, as are the parent's views on the needs of their child. The School recognises that the needs of students taking up a pupil premium place (as part of the School's published Admissions Policy) may differ from that of a student who met the cut-off score for their admission year and are identified and monitored as an additional subgroup.

The DfE recognises that school leaders are best placed to assess their students' needs and use the funding to improve attainment, drawing on evidence of effective practice. They can use it wherever they identify the greatest need.

The use of pupil premium funding is planned in line with the 'menu of approaches' set by the DfE. The menu has been developed in line with the EEF's 3-tiered approach to help schools allocate spending across the following 3 areas:

- supporting high-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
- providing targeted academic support including additional tutoring
- tackling non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties in attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing

The TGS Pupil Premium Promise provides:

- Confidentiality: Assistance is given automatically with the minimum of fuss so that no family can be identified as receiving support
- Support with the cost of travel to school
- A grant of £120 per year - for compulsory school uniform
- A grant of £50 per year - for basic school sports kit
- A contribution towards one international trip
- Increased access to IT through the loan of a laptop
- Free essential equipment for lessons e.g. a calculator
- Free lessons to learn to play a musical instrument. This includes a loan of an instrument.
- Free essential school trips: e.g. trips to theatres, museums and field trips which form part of teaching subjects in the curriculum
- Free residential trips in the UK in Years 7 and 9
- Free access to revision resources
- Free access to booster classes where appropriate
- Free access to individual advice and guidance in relation to career planning
- Access to the DofE bronze award
- Support towards the DofE silver award

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### **A Continuum of Support**

Our pupil premium offer extends to the wider community through our Horizons Programme, offering opportunities for primary pupils to develop higher level numeracy, problem-solving, comprehension, literacy and verbal reasoning skills in preparation for grammar school. We have amended our admissions policy to give 15 places available for PP students. Following the success of programmes delivered in partnership with the Right Tuition Company, we have teamed up with the charity, AIM Kent to reach a wider geographical area and to simplify the opportunities available to primary schools by contacting them jointly with one registration communication.

Beyond the Horizon Programme we want *all* students to have equal access to all aspects of the 7-year TGS experience. The pupil premium promise therefore extends to the [TGS sixth form promise](#) delivered through the 16-19 Bursary Fund, 16-19 Tuition Funding and contributions from the Debney Endowment Trust. Students in receipt of the pupil premium grant during Year 11 will also be eligible for the sixth form promise. This ensures that there is a continuation in the support offered. This enables every student to benefit from the full TGS experience as a passport to future success.

### **Monitoring Outcomes**

Through strategic use of this additional funding the School is fully committed to ensuring the individual needs of each entitled child are met. We ensure that children in receipt of pupil premium are treated equitably and as favourably as others. The School uses the additional funding to promote the achievement, progress and life chances of all eligible students. As a result of the additional funding, we aim to secure progress and achieve higher standards than would have been likely without it.

The pupil premium co-ordinator monitors the students who are specifically in receipt of the pupil premium grant in terms of their academic progress and involvement with enrichment activities. Contact is made with parents/carers on a regular basis to inform, discuss progress and review any new opportunities to support their child.

The School is accountable for how it uses the additional funding to support the achievement of disadvantaged students. The Board of Trustees ensure that the School monitors, evaluates and reviews the success of the funding strategies and publishes a report on the TGS website containing information about how we have used the pupil premium grant to address the issue of closing the gap for socially disadvantaged students across the academic year.

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***We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics. This forms part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.***

#### **Link Documents:**

Charging and Remissions Policy  
Sixth Form Bursary Policy  
Complaints Policy

#### **Link Guidance:**

[Allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2025 to 2026](#)

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## Appendix

### Eligible Students on which the Pupil Premium Grant is calculated

The pupil premium is allocated to the School based on the number of eligible students in Years 7 to 11. Eligible students fall into the categories explained below.

- Students recorded in the most recent October school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).
- This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent October census.
- This also includes pupils with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The government has permanently extended FSM eligibility to include children in households with NRPF.
- Children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children.
- Children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously looked-after children. This includes children who were looked after by a local authority or other state care immediately before being adopted, or left local authority or other state care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.
- In addition, the service pupil premium is available to students who have parents serving in the armed forces meeting the following criteria:
  - one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces, including students with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service - this includes students with a parent who is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England.
  - registered as a 'service child' on any school census in the past 6 years ('ever 6 service children'), as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance, including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census.
  - In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces.

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