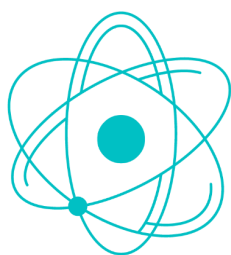


PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS POLICY



HARDWICK HOUSE SCHOOL

Date: 3rd September 2023

Review Cycle: Annual

Next Review Date: September 2024

Hardwick House School is part of Newcome Education, which is owned and operated by Cavendish Education.

This policy is one of a series of school policies that, taken together, are designed to form a comprehensive statement of the school's aspiration to provide an outstanding education for each of its students and of the mechanisms and procedures in place to achieve this. Accordingly, this policy should be read alongside these policies. In particular it should be read in conjunction with the policies covering equality and diversity, Health and Safety, safeguarding and child protection.

All of these policies have been written, not simply to meet statutory and other requirements, but to enable and evidence the work that the whole school is undertaking to ensure the implementation of its core values.

While this current policy document may be referred to elsewhere in Hardwick House School's documentation, including particulars of employment, it is non-contractual.

In the school's policies, unless the specific context requires otherwise, the word "parent" is used in terms of Section 576 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a biological parent but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child. Department for Education guidance [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility September 2018](#) considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative

- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The school employs the services of the following consulting companies to ensure regulatory compliance and the implementation of best practice:

- Peninsula BrightHR
- LRB (Health and Safety)
- Atlantic Data (DBS)
- SchoolPro (data protection)
- Marsh Commercial (insurance)

Hardwick House School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, pupils and visitors to share this commitment.

All outcomes generated by this document must take account of and seek to contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at Hardwick House School.

The policy documents of Hardwick House School are revised and published periodically in good faith. They are inevitably subject to revision. On occasions a significant revision, although promulgated in school separately, may have to take effect between the re-publication of a set of policy documents. Care should therefore be taken to ensure, by consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, that the details of any policy document are still effectively current at a particular moment.

1 Statement of Intent

This Policy applies to all staff, volunteers, therapists, and anyone working on behalf of Hardwick House School, pupils, parents/carers, external agencies and members of the public.

2 Introduction

This policy sets out the School's aims, objectives and strategies with regard to the Pupil Premium.

The Government introduced the Pupil Premium as an allocation of additional funding, which supports specific groups of children who are vulnerable to possible under-achievement and to help schools to 'narrow the gap' with regards to attainment between these youngsters and their peers – giving them as much support as possible in reaching their full potential.

These include children:

- Who are or have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at some point in the last six years;
- Who have been in care for one day or more (CLA);
- Who have been adopted from care or leave care under special guardianship or a residency order;
- Whose parents are currently employed by the armed services.

The Government has given schools the freedom to spend this funding as they think best based upon their knowledge of individual pupil needs.

Nationally, the statistics show that pupils who are, or have been, in receipt of FSM, do less well than their peers in exams, for example SATs. and GCSE. Schools are therefore required to report on the amount of funding received and how this is being used; alongside the impact of the funding, once available.

3 Pupil Premium at Hardwick House School

Hardwick House School is an independent special school. As an independent school, commissioning Local Authorities responsible for the payment of school fees do not have to pass on the Pupil Premium to the school and Pupil Premium is paid in varying amounts from different local authorities.

Hardwick House School views the needs of all children as important and ensures that teaching and learning opportunities meet their individual needs. This includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed.

The School recognises that not all pupils who are entitled to free school meals (FSM) will be socially disadvantaged. The School also recognises that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.

Hardwick House School reserves the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the School has legitimately identified as being

socially disadvantaged. Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis, which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals. Limited funding and resources means that not all children receiving free school meals will be in receipt of Pupil Premium interventions at one time.

4 Free School Meals

In state-maintained schools, children may be able to get free school meals if parents or carers get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Children may also get free school meals if parents or carers get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

If a child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2023.

Being an Independent Special School for children with autism, the School does not have any school meals; all children bring a packed lunch to cater for their unique and individual dietary needs. The School endeavours to support any child who would have been eligible in the state-maintained sector by purchasing £15 of food vouchers per child per week. Some local authorities will reimburse the School for these vouchers, however not all do. Where a local authority refuses to pay, the School will try to cover the costs from its own budget.

5 Pupil Premium Provision

Hardwick House School will ensure that the additional support provided is effective

by:

- Looking at the individual needs of each child and identifying their barriers to learning
- Ensuring all school staff communicate regularly
- Providing high quality interventions tailored to the individual
- Working with other agencies to bring in additional expertise
- Providing support in times of crisis
- Recognising and building on children's strengths and achievements to further boost confidence

Pupils receiving Pupil Premium funding have benefited from one or more of the following additional provisions:

- Photography equipment
- Specialist cookery resources
- Specialist equipment for college course
- Specialist additional therapy
- Specific equipment to aid sensory regulation
- Provision of upgraded and new outdoor play equipment to enhance sensory regulation
- Additional Wellbeing and Outdoor Learning opportunities.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

All School Staff

- Be knowledgeable about children's abilities and needs; academic, social and wellbeing.
- Maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability'.
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in all areas of the school which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.
- Plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- Support disadvantaged groups of pupils through differentiated planning and teaching and support, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind.
- Keep up to date with teaching strategies and research, which have a proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

- Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of every pupils.

- Ensure that all staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment.
- Ensure that all strategies are evaluated as robustly as possible to ensure that the approach applied has the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, the Headteacher and SLT will, where relevant, undertake ongoing evaluations of the strategies being used, such as that outlined in The DIY Evaluation Guide provided by the Education Endowment Foundation.
- It will be the responsibility of the Headteacher to report to Governors.

The Governors

- Ensure that the School's policy is implemented and regularly reviewed.

7 Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher.