

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement: Bensham Manor School 2026/27

1. Summary Information					
School	Bensham Manor	Total PP budget	£198,500	CLA	1
Academic Year	2026/27	Total pupils	244	Review Date	July 2027
Governor Lead	Martin Williams	Total PP pupils %	65.3%	Pupil Premium Lead	Kirstie Byrne

Statement of intent

At Bensham Manor School, our commitment remains clear: every pupil, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves the opportunity to thrive, achieve, and prepare successfully for adulthood. High-quality teaching continues to be the foundation of our provision, and we remain steadfast in our determination to ensure that disadvantage does not become a barrier to success.

For the 2026–2027 academic year, approximately 65% of our pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This is almost a 10% increase on last year given the new calculations around fsm. As a secondary special school, we recognise that many of our pupils face multiple and often complex barriers to learning. In addition to their special educational needs and disabilities, some pupils experience disadvantage linked to poverty, family circumstances, adverse childhood experiences, and challenges relating to emotional wellbeing and mental health. Our Pupil Premium strategy is therefore designed to provide both universal and targeted support that enables pupils to flourish academically, socially, emotionally, and personally.

Historically, there has not been a significant attainment gap between pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and those who are not. We know this because we carefully analyse data and have a robust set of interventions in place. However, our ambition extends far beyond academic attainment alone. We are committed to ensuring that disadvantaged pupils have access to the same opportunities, experiences, aspirations, and life chances as their peers and leave Bensham Manor equipped with the skills they need for adulthood.

Our employability curriculum remains a key strength of the school and continues to support pupils from Year 7 onwards in

developing the skills, attitudes, and confidence required for future employment and independent living. Recognising that many of our pupils make progress through carefully sequenced small steps, we place significant emphasis on communication, independence, problem-solving, teamwork, resilience, and self-advocacy. Through work-related learning, employer encounters, enterprise opportunities, and work experience placements, we aim to raise aspirations and ensure that every pupil can envisage a positive future pathway.

Our Trauma-Informed Approach is fully embedded throughout the school and underpins all aspects of our practice. We understand the impact that adversity and disadvantage can have on learning, behaviour, relationships, and emotional wellbeing. Through consistent relational practice, emotionally available adults, and a culture built upon trust, safety, and belonging, we support pupils to develop self-regulation, resilience, and positive engagement in school life.

The school's therapeutic provision continues to be central to our support for disadvantaged pupils. Through our Therapy Centre, pupils benefit from a universal therapeutic offer alongside targeted interventions where required. Our multidisciplinary team, including therapeutic and wellbeing professionals, works closely with staff and families to support communication, emotional wellbeing, sensory regulation, and engagement with learning. This provision plays a vital role in removing barriers and promoting positive outcomes for our most vulnerable pupils.

The Family Support Worker remains a key part of our strategy to strengthen relationships between home and school. Through practical support, guidance, early intervention, and signposting to external services, families are supported to overcome challenges that may impact attendance, wellbeing, and educational engagement.

Our Nature Nurture Centre continues to provide valuable opportunities for pupils to develop independence, communication, resilience, and practical life skills. It also supports our Nurture provision, enabling pupils to access targeted interventions that strengthen emotional wellbeing, social development, and readiness for learning.

Throughout 2026–2027, Pupil Premium funding will continue to support:

- High-quality teaching and learning across the curriculum.
- Therapeutic support and emotional wellbeing provision.
- Trauma-informed and relational approaches.
- Family support and parental engagement.
- Employability and preparation for adulthood programmes.
- Outdoor learning and nurture provision.
- Enrichment activities, educational visits, and wider life experiences.

- Attendance and engagement initiatives.
- Early intervention and targeted support for vulnerable pupils.

As Headteacher, I am committed to ensuring that Pupil Premium funding is used strategically, thoughtfully, and effectively. We will continue to evaluate the impact of our provision and adapt our approaches where necessary to meet the evolving needs of our pupils and families. Our vision is that every pupil leaves Bensham Manor School with confidence, independence, aspirations, and the skills they need to lead fulfilling and successful lives. Through high expectations, strong relationships, and a relentless focus on inclusion and opportunity, we will continue to ensure that disadvantage never limits a pupil's potential.

2. Challenges to Future Attainment

1. All students have EHCPs and learning needs that are complex
2. Students join the school with very low numeracy and literacy levels
3. The majority of students join the school with a significant delay in their social and communication skills
4. Many families are experiencing wider issues including poverty, housing , mental health and illness
5. Gaining transport to school is an issue for some families
6. Employability for pupils with complex learning needs is well below average employment levels nationally

3. Outcomes

· Ensure all pupils have full access to all curricular and extracurricular activities
· To ensure (where possible) all pupils have a reading age above 7 years and to maximize the literacy skills of all pupils
· To fully prepare all pupils for adulthood including independent travel training where appropriate and the offer of a life skills curriculum
· Ensure attendance is above that of similar schools/national averages
· Continue to develop parental engagement and support offered to parents and carers
· To give all pupils opportunities for a careers education
· To ensure the therapeutic needs of all students are met, ensuring positive mental health of all students,through the employment of an inhouse therapy team
· Ensure that this strategy spending is done in partnership with catch up premium where possible

4. Success Criteria
· Offering a wide breadth of curriculum and extra-curricular activities including residential visits, Duke of Edinburgh Award, travel train and Forest School.
· Keeping Reading as high priority at Bensham Manor with pupils making very good reading progress.
· The therapy team supports all aspects of student development with a focus on good mental health.
· Ensuring whole school attendance is above 93% for PP students (Covid dependent).
· Offering a wide range of parent/carers workshops including tea and talk sessions
· Working in partnership with Croydon Council on transport and independent travel

.Providing a variety of life skills opportunities both in terms of our curriculum offer and external opportunities such as driving lessons and residential.

.Providing an outstanding Careers Programme including workplace visits, mock interviews, college sessions and work experience.

Activity in this academic year

This section details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium funding) this academic year to address the barriers listed above.

Teaching

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge/s number addressed
For all pupils in receipt of pupil premium to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including access to the local community Pupils to have access to the local community via regular community visits to develop independence and generalise skills	We know that high quality teaching and a broad and innovative curriculum allows for pupils to develop a breadth of skills. Life experiences in the local community ensure that pupils become familiar with key areas of life skills development.	1,2,6
CPD for teaching staff on supporting pupils' mental health.	We know that better mental health will ensure more focus in class time.	1,4,6
Providing two full time Speech and Language Therapists (SALT) time, and one Higher-Level Teaching Assistant as a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant.	Therapy supports the development of pupils' communication, receptive and expressive language leading to long term gains.	1,3,5

Academic Support

One to one and small group tuition for pupils in need of additional support, delivered in addition to, and linked with, normal lessons.	Tuition targeted at specific needs and knowledge gaps can be an effective method to support low attaining pupils or those falling behind:	1,2,6
To provide opportunities for parents/carers of pupils in receipt of pupil premium to access home learning.	When parents and carers have a greater understanding of the school approaches supporting their child, they will be able to continue the work at home leading to better outcomes.	4,5,6

Wider strategies

Cultural trips and in-school arts activities, including drama, dance and securing greater engagement in music education.	As well as being valuable for wider development outcomes, arts participation can have a positive impact on education performance when interventions are linked to academic targets.	1,3,4,5,6
Driving lessons	Driving lessons will develop pupils skills for life and independence	4,6

Residentials	Residential visits will develop pupils skills for life and independence. These will be free or heavily subsidized for PP pupils.	1,3,4
Careers Guidance	High quality careers guidance including mock interviews will support pupils into the workplace	1,2,3,6
Community visits incorporating travel training	Independent Travel Training is likely to enhance pupils' social and employment opportunities.	1,5
Provision of fruit	This will ensure pupils are given a healthy snack which in turn will prevent hunger and support more sustained concentration in class.	1,4
Counselling and mental health support	This will support pupils mental health helping them to access school life.	1