



ST MARY'S

Church of England Primary School

Pupil Premium End of Year Review

July 2023

Teaching

To improve the educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils is of the utmost importance to teachers and leaders at Saint Mary's. Improving outcomes for Pupil Premium (PP) children begins with outstanding teaching. We place enormous emphasis on all teachers mastering what we call the 'fundamentals' of excellent teaching. Training for all staff in the fundamentals is ongoing throughout the year; however, we know that CPD is only the beginning. To ensure that the fundamentals are embedded, and therefore that educational outcomes improve, we have invested heavily in coaching.

Teachers are allocated coaches and then led through a rigorous cycle of coaching sessions. Coaches demonstrate effective time-management, outstanding marking and, above all, outstanding teaching. Coachees receive bespoke feedback on their teaching and clear development points which are chosen for the impact they will have on pupil outcomes.

Teaching and coaching must be embedded and effective for teachers to maximize attainment; however, a third element is also required: outstanding lesson plans. For learners to learn and teachers to teach, lesson plans must be of the highest quality. We have invested heavily in releasing our most experienced teachers to plan lessons, and these plans are then reviewed by senior leaders. It is the combination of outstanding teaching, coaching and planning which means that so many PP children meet, and exceed, age related expectations in statutory assessments.

Assessment

Assessment for learning (AFL) is essential to ensure that disadvantaged pupils' outcomes are outstanding. AFL refers to teachers and pupils knowing three things: where children are, where they need to go and how they will get there. We have revised our marking policy so that teachers are now 'live marking' in lessons so that children receive minute-by-minute feedback which drives their performance. Staff have been trained in effective live marking and how to address misconceptions and misunderstanding. Moreover, teachers have received coaching in this essential skill. That disadvantage pupils receive immediate feedback, ensures that they make accelerated progress and their attainment is raised.

Teacher assessment must, of course, be robust and accurate. Recent external moderation visits to Saint Mary's - in both year 2 and year 6 - were enormously successful and emphasized the effectiveness of assessment at Saint Mary's and the quality of outcomes. The moderators agreed with all teacher assessments and remarked on the expertise of teachers and the accuracy of their assessments.

Targeted Academic Support

Disadvantaged pupils make great progress when teaching and assessment are outstanding; they make even greater progress when additional targeted support is available. As such, we invest in a huge variety of boosters and interventions to support children and raise the outcomes of pupils. Before school, Y2 and Y6 are invited to arithmetic boosters to ensure that they have the skills they need to make accelerated progress in mathematics. After school, the following boosters are offered: Y5 arithmetic booster, Fresh Start reading, Year 6 Reading, Grammar and Maths boosters. Every Saturday, Achievement school is offered to all Y6 pupils and Saturday Plus is offered to children in Y2-Y5. Streaming during the school day, means that targeted additional support is in place for PP children. During Easter we run Easter School to which all PP children in year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited.

Targeted academic support is maximally effective when it is timely - if a child falls behind, they must receive support urgently. As a result, we are quick to act whenever we identify gaps in childrens' knowledge and understanding.

Wider Strategies

To ensure that disadvantaged pupils have amazing enriching experiences, children are frequently taken on exciting trips. This academic year, children have visited museums, places of worship and activity centers; children have attended forest school and visited Saint Saviour's to meet the alpacas. These amazing activities help to engage and inspire all of our children thereby increasing their love of learning.

Finally, we know that raising aspirations is key to improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. With this in mind, we have arranged for a host of inspiring guest speakers to visit Saint Mary's. Authors, climate scientists and religious leaders have spoken with children at Saint Mary's and shared their inspiring stories.