



## KINGSKERSWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Pupil Premium Strategy

#### Barriers to Learning

At Kingskerswell C of E Primary School we are committed to improving the life chances of all of our children and providing opportunities for everyone to excel. Over a number of years we have investigated barriers to learning which may hinder the progress of our children. Through discussions with parents, children, teachers and our Senior Leadership Team, we have identified the main barriers to learning for those children who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding as follows:

- **Gaps in understanding**

Gaps in understanding can develop at any point from birth onwards and present a real obstacle for many children. These gaps can be present in any area of child development, including social and emotional understanding as well as academic understanding. We work hard to identify gaps as early as possible and quickly organise appropriate support so that every child is able to develop and build on their understanding to maximise progress.

- **Poor motivation- low self-esteem, lack of aspiration and expectation**

A child's ability to learn depends largely on their motivation. The personal desire to achieve results and improve knowledge is one of the most important factors in the ability to learn. A lack of motivation is a major barrier to a child's learning and may be present for a number of reasons. It is vital, therefore, that we address the issues leading to a lack of motivation. We have a range of systems in school which allow us to identify the reasons a child may be lacking in motivation and we use these to ensure that we put the most effective and appropriate strategies in place.

- **Special educational needs and/ or disability**

Analysis of our in-school data has shown that children eligible for Pupil Premium funding who also have a special educational need do not always make the same progress as their peers. For this group of pupils it has been very challenging to ensure that they make the rapid and sustained progress necessary to guarantee that they are able to achieve to the best of their ability. The barriers that a special educational need present for a child can be varied and often individualised support is needed. We aim to provide support which addresses each child's needs.

- **Minimal parental engagement**

As a school, we have recognised the correlation between levels of parental engagement and underperformance of children. This is particularly true for children eligible for Pupil Premium funding. As family and parenting have the biggest influence on child development and life chances, it is vital that this issue is addressed. We work hard to foster full parental engagement in the learning journeys and are constantly trying new ways to help parents and carers feel valued and to fully understand the importance of their role in their children's education.

- **Poor attendance**

In a small number of cases, poor attendance has become a major barrier to learning. Although this does not affect a great number of children, when a child's attendance rate is poor, this has a major impact on their knowledge and understanding. In turn, this can lead to a lack of motivation and self-esteem issues. We address attendance issues on a daily basis, with rigour and determination.

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