

SMITH'S WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Initiatives

At Smith's wood primary we have used the pupil premium to focus on raising academic standards, supporting pupils to achieve more and broadening the range of opportunities to our pupils. Approximately 70 different interventions were utilised over the past 12 months. A few of the most spectacular success are highlighted below. Please also refer to Impact data also submitted.

1. Phonics Factory

The development of early reading is crucial, particularly when children **enter school well below average** levels. Smith's Wood has developed an individualised programme that identifies quickly those children not making expected progress. Specific, measured intervention (15 mins per day) is then put in place, delivered by a small army of trained staff. Even senior staff take responsibility for individual pupils.

The idea has been expanded to look at high performing pupils who can realistically be expected to reach well above national average levels in reading.

2. Feed Forward marking—The Wheel of Fortune

Evidence shows that structured “next step marking” can have a significant impact on pupil progress. All staff have been trained in delivering high quality feedback and children are encouraged to respond EVERY DAY. This is carefully monitored with the “Wheel of Fortune” randomly selecting pupils each week whose feedback is shared with the whole school. There are prizes for those who have responded to the marking every time! (For evidence of impact, please see data section).

3. Strategic appointment of staff

It takes high quality and highly motivated staff to close the gap. The pupil premium has given us greater flexibility in the appointment of staff. It has allowed us to actively recruit the best Newly Qualified Teachers early on, ensuring high quality fields of candidates (a standard advert will now attract 60+ applicants). The pupil premium has also allowed us to appoint our own speech therapist. This means we can identify and support children from the moment they enter the school and then train staff to deliver specific programme. Crucially, disadvantaged parents no longer have to travel distances for illusive speech therapy sessions— it is all in school. We are now working with a local secondary school to recreate the successes of the primary school in the important first year of secondary (The Alpha Fusion Project). Standards and attendance often drop in the first year of secondary education; when closing the gap we cannot accept a backwards step.

The appointment of Sports Apprentices, provides round the clock sporting interventions at all levels of ability. For the most able children, coaching in specific sports (eg rowing, biathlon) has resulted in significant successes at local and regional level.

4. Pastoral support and attendance support

Children in challenging circumstances need to be in school to benefit from any in school initiative. Our learning mentors work closely with families to ensure the most vulnerable attend. The attendance of Free School Meal children is statistically lower than non-FSM children. This also has to be addressed if the gap is to be closed. Children with the lowest attendance have been identified and targeted. With whole school attendance now at least at average levels (95.5%), even the pupils with the lowest levels of attendance have recorded a 4% improvement over the last 6 months.

Awe and Wonder

The world is bigger than Smith's Wood. The Pupil Premium has supported us in ensuring our children open their eyes to the wider world. From Champions League football, to climbing the Eiffel Tower and sleeping on HMS Belfast, the Pupil Premium has allowed us to ensure that we are More Than A School for our community.

MORE THAN A SCHOOL



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EVIDENCE OF IMPACT HEADLINES



There are many different intervention strategies at Smith's Wood. The data presented below summarises the key areas of impact over the past 12 months.

1. Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

All pupils (Smith's Wood) 90%	National—all pupils 69%
Pupil Premium Children (Smith's Wood) 91%	National—Pupil Premium 57%

GAP CLOSED

2. Year 2 phonics Screening check (ie those who retook test)

All pupils (Smith's Wood) 100%	National—all pupils 69%
Pupil Premium Children (Smith's Wood) 100%	National—Pupil Premium 62%

GAP CLOSED

3. Year 6 National tests (% of pupils achieving L4+)

MATHS

All pupils (Smith's Wood) 91%	National—all pupils 85%
Pupil Premium Children (Smith's Wood) 91%	National—Pupil Premium 77%

GAP CLOSED

READING

All pupils (Smith's Wood) 93%	National—all pupils 86%
Pupil Premium Children (Smith's Wood) 94%	National—Pupil Premium 78%

GAP CLOSED

WRITING

All pupils (Smith's Wood) 85%	National—all pupils 83%
Pupil Premium Children (Smith's Wood) 88%	National—Pupil Premium 74%

GAP CLOSED

AND THIS IS ON TOP OF IMPROVED ATTENDANCE, IMPROVED PROGRESS AND ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES.....

MORE THAN A SCHOOL

