

Brackla Primary School Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Strategy Statement

This statement details our school's use of the PDG for the **2024 to 2025** academic year.

It outlines our strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the effect that last year's spending had within our school.

School Overview

Detail	Data
School name	Brackla Primary School
Number of pupils in school	347
Proportion (%) of PDG eligible pupils	23.3%
Date this statement was published	July 2024
Date on which it will be reviewed	May 2025
Statement authorised by	Mr Darren Jones (Improvement Partner)
PDG Lead	Mrs Kathryn John (Headteacher)
Governor Lead	Mrs Jo Czajkowski

Funding Overview

Detail	Amount
Local Authority Equity Grant	£114,861
Total budget for this academic year	£114,861

Part A: Strategy Plan

Statement of Intent

Schools in Wales receive a grant from the Welsh Government specifically for reducing the impact of poverty on educational achievement. In Brackla Primary School, we aim to make the best use of this funding to implement sustainable strategies that will impact on pupils eligible for free school meals.

As a school, we have outlined core areas to be targeted which are supported by research and include:

- **Family engagement** - To develop strategies that further engage the family and community including those that support parent/carer involvement in their child's learning.
- **Learning and teaching** - To secure effective identification of need with regard to disadvantaged pupils, their circumstances, current achievement and progress, together with clear procedures for tracking individuals' progress.
- **Social and emotional learning** - To develop personal support and intervention to meet pupils' needs, removing any barriers to learning and improve wellbeing and readiness to learn.
- **Enrichment and experience** - To provide access to high quality learning experiences and enrichment activities, with the removal of financial barriers to participation.

Intended Outcomes

Intended outcome	Success criteria
To further develop the role of the Family Engagement Officer (FEO) and increase parent/carer involvement in pupil learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased targeted support at specific families. ● Increased number of workshops provided to assist families with supporting their children with their learning. ● An increase in the support targeted families receive in engaging with the school in all areas of school life. ● Family interventions are managed effectively and pupils tracked closely. ● A broader range of outside agencies to be explored by the FEO to enable families to access the support they require. ● Attendance and punctuality will be targeted by the FEO regularly resulting in an increased understanding of the relationship between attendance and school success.
To develop targeted support within the classroom for identified pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High quality support is provided for identified individuals or groups of pupils. ● Termly reviews are undertaken with key staff and have a clear focus on pupil progress.
To support pupil wellbeing through a variety of strategies and approaches appropriate to individual needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified individuals and groups of pupils will be identified and have personalised programmes to support them with managing their feelings. ● Pupils' social and emotional growth is supported by developing positive relationships.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies and activities are put in place ensuring pupils develop the skills needed to respond to their feelings appropriately.
To provide a wide range of enrichment and opportunities to enhance and broaden pupils' experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children have equal opportunities to experience a wide range of enrichment opportunities through the weekly BOOST programme. Enrichment opportunities promote a wide range of skill development.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our PDG **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Learning and Teaching

Budgeted cost: **£71,150**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach
Undertake a broad range of assessments to identify areas for development.	Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation
Provide targeted support for identified pupils as agreed.	Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation
Explore ways to record the progress of support/programmes.	Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation
Monitor the effectiveness of the targeted support in place and its impact on pupils through regular progress reviews.	Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation
To further develop the roles of the PDG funded Learning Support Officers (LSOs) in each progression step.	Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation

Community Schools

Budgeted cost: **£30,000**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach
Continue to employ a Family Engagement Officer for 32.5 hours per week	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation

Provide professional development opportunities to develop the FEO's role in supporting families.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation
Design an overview/timetable of workshops/activities to take place during the year taking on board feedback form a variety of stakeholders.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation
Further develop links with families on keeping them informed on what and how their children are learning and how they can best support them.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation
Develop a FEO forum for schools across Bridgend to share best practice.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation

Wider strategies

Budgeted cost: **£13,711**

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach
To continue to utilise Thrive as a tool to support happy, healthy and confident pupils who are ready to learn.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation Thrive Schools
To further develop the BOOST enrichment programme to enhance learning opportunities and experiences for all pupils.	Sutton Trust research Education Endowment Foundation

Total budgeted cost: £114,861

Part B: Review of outcomes in the previous academic year

PDG outcomes

This details the impact that our PDG activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Impact 2023-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil overview of PDG Spend 23-24 • Pupil Progress Review 23-24
Wider Strategies (Social and emotional wellbeing)

- Identified individuals and groups of pupils have been identified and have personalised Thrive programmes to support them with managing their feelings.
- Pupils' social and emotional growth is supported by developing positive relationships.
- Whole school weekly Thrive Time ensures strategies and activities are put in place ensuring pupils develop the skills needed to respond to their feelings appropriately. [Thrive planning 2023-2024](#)
- 1:1 Thrive sessions support identified pupils successfully with their emotional and social development.
- Barod morning sessions provide valuable support for pupils needing support for be ready to learn in the mornings.
- BOOST (enrichment) provision has a significant impact on pupil and staff wellbeing. Activities have included French, sign language, gardening, football, chess, BEEPs Radio, crafts (painting, papier mache, origami, painting), ukulele, knitting, active fun, singing, Spanish, Urdd, Garageband, Local Heroes (supporting the local community), bikeability, Savoury Sensations, Micro Bits and visits to Rest Bay, Kenfig Pool, Bryngarw, Newbridge Fields, Tremains Wood and around Brackla to name a few. [BOOST 2022-2023](#); [BOOST 2023-2024](#);
- Outdoor learning sessions are a strength of the school and impact positively on pupil wellbeing. [Outdoor learning](#). A lunchtime outdoor learning club supports targeted children with developing perseverance and resilience.

Wider Strategies (Targeted Support):

- High quality support is provided for identified individuals or groups of pupils. [ALN/Class action needs](#). Support includes physical development (Smart Moves), literacy support (Lexia, precision teaching), speech and language (Speech Links, Language Links, Wellcomm) , wellbeing support (Starburst, Barod, Thrive 1:1, LEGO Build to Express).
- Termly pupil progress reviews are undertaken with key staff and have a clear focus on pupil progress. Progress reviews monitor FSM pupils' progress across areas of learning and experience. [Pupil progress reviews](#)
- A wide range of extra curricular provision is in place for pupils in years 2-6 which is accessed by increasing numbers of FSM pupils. [Extra curricular activities](#); [eFSM extra curricular club data](#)

Community Schools (Family Engagement):

- A wide range of workshops are available for all families and have included: Stay and Play; Positive Parenting; Non Violence Resistance; Pori Dori story telling; learning and play at home; wellbeing. Information sessions have included ALN and maths. [FEO Newsletters](#); [FSM family engagement data](#); [Parent/carers feedback November 2023](#)
- The Pantri is accessed weekly by an increasing number of families and partnerships with FareShare, Co-Op and Sainsburys are valuable.

- 1:1 support for families is provided as required on a range of areas including financial, wellbeing and behaviour.
- The FEO works closely with the Attendance Lead to identify concerns and provide support where required. 100% of letters sent out in October were to eFSM families, with 85% in November. As a result of monitoring and supporting the targeted families, there was an improvement in attendance rates of 75% and 100% in punctuality.
- The difference in attendance rates between eFSM and non eFSM pupils for the autumn term was 1.6%, compared to a 3% difference in the autumn term 2022.
- Partnerships with Early Help and Bridgend College have been effective in supporting families with parenting, wellbeing and academic support.
- Of the referrals to Early Help and Winston's Wish (bereavement support) 80% were for FSM families.
- The FEO has attended 5 FEO forums to share best practice and gather information from other support services. As a result, several families have benefitted from signposts to services available.

Wider Strategies (Enrichment):

- All pupils and staff are involved in weekly BOOST (enrichment) on a 4 week cycle.
- Activities have included French, sign language, gardening, football, chess, BEEPs Radio, crafts (painting, papier mache, origami, painting), ukulele, knitting, active fun, singing, Spanish, Urdd, Garageband, Local Heroes (supporting the local community), bikeability, Savoury Sensations, Micro Bits and visits to Rest Bay, Kenfig Pool, Bryngarw, Newbridge Fields, Tremains Wood and around Brackla to name a few. [BOOST 2022-2023](#); [BOOST 2023-2024](#);
- During the course of the year, all pupils in years 1-6 have been off site with all costs covered by the school.

Supporting the impact of poverty:

- 'Price of Pupil Poverty' audit undertaken and action plan created [Price of Pupil Poverty audit November 23](#); [Poverty action plan](#)
- High quality learning opportunities through an exciting, engaging and innovative curriculum; [Medium term planning](#)
- High quality deployment of support staff in all classes;
- Wellbeing support dog weekly visits;
- Inclusion of vulnerable pupils on pupil voice groups such as Brackla Pupil Senedd, Brackla Rangers, Play Pals, Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg and Swyddogs;
- BOOST provision; [BOOST 2022-2023](#); [BOOST 2023-2024](#). All costs are fully covered by the school;
- All school trips are subsidised (St Fagans, Big Pit, Margam Park, Kenfig Pool);
- Brackla Super Savers - pupils encouraged to participate in weekly savings scheme;
- School uniform and Christmas jumpers recycled/redistributed;

- Careful consideration to fundraising events and theme days, which are spread out over the course of the year.
- Pupils have access to free fruit from the Snack Shack, run by the Rangers on a weekly basis.
- Family engagement newsletters contain information on local foodbanks and places to eat (with offers, cost effective options etc.) [FEO Newsletters](#)
- Rights reviewed by Senedd in September '23 and they introduced Article 27 - your right to a house, food and clothing linked to the value of generosity for December