



# A guide to Pupil Premium Funding

How Sumdog can help improve educational outcomes for your school.



## What is pupil premium?

The pupil premium grant is funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in state-funded schools in England. Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium funding, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. The [Education Endowment Fund](#) has produced an evidence-based guide to support school leaders with their approach to their Pupil premium strategy. It does not need to be solely spent on eligible pupils, it can be used to support children with identified needs.

*At Limeside, we've been enjoying using Sumdog as it gives staff a flexible way to focus on core mathematical skills, and that supports our maths mastery approach. The schools within our trust have above average numbers of pupils eligible for pupil premium and over 60% of pupils with EAL so it's really important for us to ensure we're providing fantastic teaching and learning resources.'*

Neil Kelsall, Specialist Leader of Education, Oasis Community Learning

## What is Sumdog?

Sumdog is an online learning tool that provides personalised maths and spelling practice and low-stake tests that pupils love.

Sumdog's aim is to help close the attainment gap by helping all pupils reach their full potential and boosting the confidence of the disengaged while giving teachers the tools to identify and nurture those that need extra support.





# 1. Diagnosing and identifying the challenges faced by disadvantaged pupils

When identifying challenges, it is important to draw upon a range of data sources to help diagnose the areas where intervention and support is needed.

Sumdog's diagnostic and assessment tools can accurately pinpoint the level each child is working at and provide easy-to-read stranded skills reports to help prioritise areas of catch-up and future learning. Regardless of age or ability, pupils choose from the same selection of high-quality games and the questions adapt to each pupil's ability – reducing the feeling of exclusion in the classroom and maths anxiety.

*'I've found the data particularly helpful. Before, I found it tricky to see whole class gaps. I know what a particular child struggles with, but now I'm able to look at Sumdog and see that a number of children have struggled in a particular area.'*

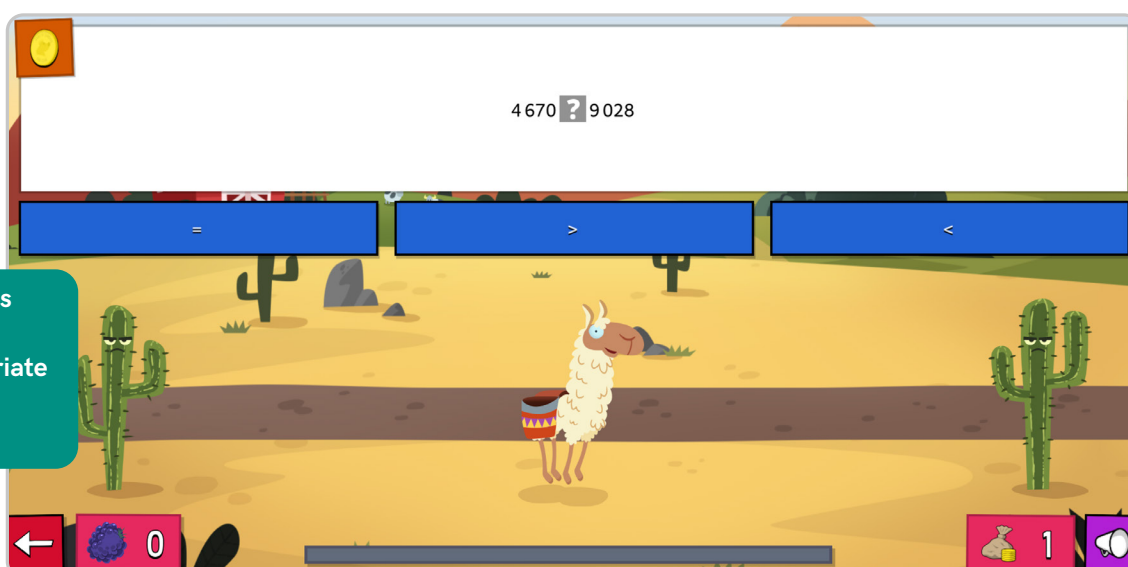
Clare Wake, Year 3 teacher, Shinewater Primary, England

← Diagnostic test results, Year 5  
The most recent diagnostic test taken by each pupil. ([More...](#))

RESET	PUPIL	TEST DATE	DIAGNOSTIC RESULT	PRETEST SCORE	TEST SCORE	NUMBER	SHAPE	MEASURE	DATA AND PROBABILITY	ALGEBRA
	Kamal H Year 5	16/01/2023 4 months ago	MID YEAR 6 (1) DIAGNOSTIC 6.2	8/15	29/40	17/24	5/7	4/5	3/4	1/2
	Euan H Year 5	16/01/2023 4 months ago	END OF YEAR 5 DIAGNOSTIC 5.2	13/15	39/40	37/38	8/8	8/8	8/8	
	Daisy R Year 5	16/01/2023 4 months ago	MID YEAR 5 DIAGNOSTIC 5.2	9/15	34/40	24/28	7/8	2/3	3/4	
	Lina G Year 5	16/01/2023 4 months ago	MID YEAR 5 DIAGNOSTIC 5.2	9/15	33/40	22/28	8/8	3/4	0/1	

A snapshot of every pupil's learning through the stranded diagnostic report to help pinpoint areas for intervention or further learning.

Sumdog's questions in games adapt to provide an appropriate challenge for each individual.





## 2. Use evidence to identify appropriate and effective responses

EEF recommends that school leaders should gather an array of evidence to help inform their decision-making. School leaders should gather an array of evidence to help inform their decision-making. The DfE has put together a menu of approaches that should help to decide on how to use the funding, which is a requirement of the conditions of the grant.

Three key challenges that our schools have identified and the impact they have seen by using Sumdog are:

### + Disadvantaged pupils are unmotivated and disengaged in maths learning



*'In the most recent Calderdale regional Sumdog contest, Lee Mount Primary School were crowned winners and every child that took part received a 5000 coin reward! This recognition of achievement is what continues to motivate my pupils and help them build fluency in their maths learning.'*

Alexa Stephens, Maths Lead at Lee Mount Primary School

### + Evidence from assessments and pupil discussions have indicated that disadvantaged pupil's fact fluency is lower than their peers

*'I've been an avid user of Sumdog since 2010 and have seen that regular use of the platform makes a huge difference in maths fluency'*

Jonathan Moorhouse, Assessment Lead and Deputy Head at St Saviour CE Primary School

### + After long holidays, disadvantaged pupils are significantly behind their peers in maths attainment

*'Setting a Sumdog Summer Challenge for all our pupils is something we're looking to do over the summer holidays as we know just 5 minutes of practice every day for each child makes a massive difference.'*

Jo Quince, Director of Education at Tennyson Learning Community

Sumdog is an engaging online resource that **supports high-quality teaching and learning** inside and outside of the classroom. The Chartered College of Teaching published the results of an independent study that demonstrated that using Sumdog for just 30 minutes a week almost doubled children's fluency.



### 3. Develop a plan for using your pupil premium to maximum effect

Your plan should focus on the controllable challenges that are having the most significant impact on your disadvantaged pupils. You should outline the key outcomes and set ambitious and targeted goals which address these challenges.

Sumdog can be used to support disengaged pupils with their maths and spelling through game-based learning. The assessment and practice tools can be used as an intervention tool to identify and address gaps. Using Sumdog's case studies, you can discover how other schools have successfully overcome learning barriers and helped narrow the attainment gap.

#### Examples of how Sumdog can be incorporated into your plan

- + A teacher can use the Sumdog assessment tool to set a test on a particular skill or topic and use the results to help address misconceptions. Once identified and retaught, they can use the Sumdog challenges tool to set practice on a skill or topic.

**Most challenging questions**  
Questions with the lowest number of students answering correctly, among those who have completed the assessment

14 4.N.NPV.4 Recognise the place value of each digit in a four-digit number

100 + 30 + 1?

5      100301      1310      131

0      8      1      2

Belle C, Elizabeth J, Ella C, Euan H, Harry P, Jonathan R, Sarah G, Zoe S

Daisy R

Belle N, Corinna Y

17 4.N.NPV.5 Order and compare numbers beyond 1,000

21 4.N.NPV.7 Round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000

25 4.N.NPV.9 Read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C)

Sumdog's assessment report helps identify misconceptions.

Sumdog's maths skills

Search...

All strands      All years

Year 4

Number

Number and place value

- 4.N.NPV.1 Count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1,000
- 4.N.NPV.2 Find 1,000 more or less than a given number
- 4.N.NPV.3 Count backwards through zero to include negative numbers
- 4.N.NPV.4 Recognise the place value of each digit in a four-digit number
  - Identify and convert a number to place value (up to 4 digits in tens)
  - Convert a ten between standard and expanded form (up to 4 digits)
  - Identify place value (up to 4 digits)
  - Convert a number to place value (up to 4 digits)
  - Convert between standard and expanded form (up to 4 digits)

Choose a maths skill that the pupils need to practice more.

- + Using the Sumdog multiplication heatmap, teachers can set fun and engaging times tables practice over the course of 6 weeks to build on fluency.

Which tables need more practice?

RECENT ACCURACY      RECENT SPEED      FLUENCY

Your pupils' average accuracy, weighted towards the most recent answers.

	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	x10	x11	x12
Alex H	80%	89%	100%	98%	75%	99%	50%	67%	100%		
Asha S											
Belle C	100%	87%	90%	74%	79%	98%	95%	92%	100%		
Belle N	80%	98%	63%	100%	92%	86%	68%	78%	100%		
Corinna Y	100%	86%		100%	80%	50%	100%	63%	100%		
Daisy R	100%	100%	100%		67%	67%	100%		100%		

The multiplication heatmap helps you identify which times tables the pupils need more practice with.

*'We love the flexibility of Sumdog and have used it in a number of ways with our pupils. Teachers use it as a lesson or TAs may use it with a group of pupils to help work on their mathematical fluency and knowledge - Sumdog is brilliant for that. It definitely helps with fluency and recall, without a doubt.'*  
Neil Kelsall, Specialist Leader of Education, Oasis Community Learning



## 4. Implementing your strategy

Effective implementation is important for making the best use of pupil premium. Embedding a new Edtech product into the classroom takes time and should align with the whole-school development plan and existing practices to sustain improvement and impact. The EEF have put together a guidance report that offers advice to schools leaders on how to implement change in schools.

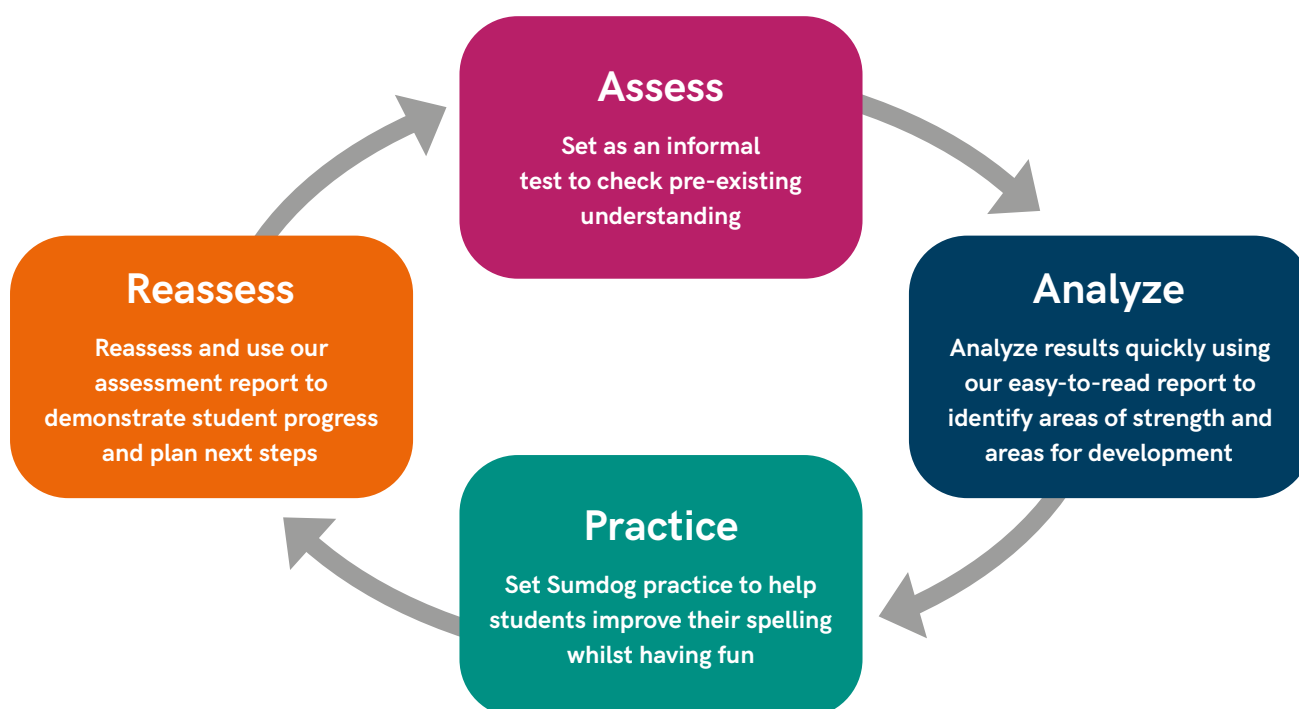
Sumdog supports your school throughout your subscription in stages and provides a wide variety of training options such as live training, training courses, short videos, and guides, to help teachers confidently use Sumdog in the classroom. Using your strategy plan we can help address your challenges such as engaging pupils in maths practice in the classroom or as part of their home learning.

*'Thank you Sumdog for delivering our staff training today. There is a wealth of resources for our teachers to utilise in order to support children of all abilities. Our teaching staff are looking forward to getting started.'*  
Mr McCaffrey, Deputy Headteacher at Dallow Primary School

## 5. Evaluating and sustaining your strategy

Monitoring and evaluating the impact should be based on the outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and should be an on-going process.

Sumdog provides data about knowledge gaps for every child, giving teachers the opportunity to focus on addressing these gaps. Sumdog is aligned to the National Curriculum, so reports can show the impact of all your interventions and programs, not just the positive impact Sumdog is having on your pupils. The ability to award extra coins for those who may need extra incentivisation can be done through Sumdog alongside sending a personalised message to acknowledge their effort and achievements. Our Sumdog Account Managers are available to help support with implementing a strategy.





## Example strategy

An example of information that can be used for your pupil premium strategy plan.

### Statement of intent

Our pupil premium strategy plan intends to support disadvantaged pupils to achieve their full potential, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

### Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Data obtained internally indicates that maths attainment among disadvantaged pupils is below that of non-disadvantage pupils.
2	From observations and interviews with pupils and families, we have found that disadvantaged pupils are less motivated and engaged to learn outside of maths lessons and have a negative mindset about maths

### Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for by the end of our current strategy plan, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
Improved maths attainment for disadvantaged pupils at the end of KS2.	Sumdog will be used alongside other assessment tools to identify gaps and show the gap is decreasing.  KS2 maths outcomes in 2024/25 (current Year 3) show that disadvantaged pupils will have made accelerated progress from their starting points.
Children are engaged and motivated to practise maths learning in class/at home	Sumdog is used at home/in school by all children to support maths fluency.

### Activity

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

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach
Children are engaged and motivated to practise maths learning in class/at home	Sumdog is used at home/in school by all children to support maths fluency.
Purchase a Sumdog Premium subscription to develop maths fluency.  Training for staff to ensure Sumdog is embedded into teaching and learning	Sumdog's fluency impact study published in the <a href="#">Impact Journal of the Chartered College of Teaching</a> found that regular users fluency progress was almost double that of non-regular users giving them a 6-month advantage over their peers.  Education Endowment Foundation Teaching & Learning Toolkit shows evidence for the impact of <a href="#">Mastery Learning</a> .  Education Endowment Foundation Teaching & Learning Toolkit shows some evidence for the impact of <a href="#">homework</a> .



Contact us today to find out how Sumdog can be used to support your pupil premium needs.

 0131 226 1511

 [hello@sumdog.com](mailto:hello@sumdog.com)

