

## Guide for primary schools

Raising attainment of disadvantaged pupils in English and maths through volunteer tutoring



## Who we are

Action Tutoring supports young people facing socio-economic disadvantage to achieve a meaningful level of academic attainment.

## What we do

We are an education charity that partners with schools to deliver tutoring programmes for pupils sitting their SATs in maths and English. We work specifically with pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and at risk of not reaching national standards by the time they leave primary school.



We also work with secondary schools supporting pupils to reach a grade 4 standard in their GCSE exams.

We select and train high-quality volunteer tutors who use our specially designed resources to deliver impactful tutoring. We keep in regular contact with our teachers to ensure tutoring remains focused on priority areas.

## Online tutoring



We also offer online delivery of our programmes. Pupils are able to connect with their tutors via our online platform, using computers in your school.

The set-up and structure of these programmes follows the same format as our face-to-face programmes and the volunteer tutors are assessed by the same criteria. A member of our staff team attends the sessions each week to support the pupils, teachers and tutors.

Our tutoring workbooks are uploaded to the platform for the pupils and tutors to work through. The provision is as close to face-to-face delivery as possible.

*"[Action Tutoring's Impact Report] shows that it is possible to close the attainment gap and Action Tutoring has had huge success raising attainment. The pupils are proof that regardless of your circumstances, it is possible to get crucial English and maths qualifications. Action Tutoring offers a practical, structured solution. Action Tutoring's vision is one that I fully endorse."*

**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**

Former Minister of State for School Standards,  
March 2019

# Who we work with

## Schools

We work with non-selective state primary schools in England where a higher than average percentage of pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium funding.



## Pupils

Within those schools, we look to work with pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and have been selected for this additional support outside lessons because they are at risk of not reaching national standards in the subject in which they would receive tutoring.

In 2020–21, we worked with:



2,655 of which were primary pupils

## Our Impact



51% of disadvantaged pupils are likely to meet expected standards in reading, writing and maths at primary school compared to 71% of their non-disadvantaged peers.<sup>1</sup>

Only 11% of pupils who don't meet national standards by the end of primary school go on to secure a pass in English and maths at the end of secondary school.<sup>2</sup>

Pupils sit a baseline assessment at the start of their programme and a progress check in February, roughly halfway through their time with Action Tutoring.

11%

The average progress made by pupils in primary English between the two assessments.

16%

The average progress made by pupils in primary maths between the two assessments.

Read more about our impact at  
[www.actiontutoring.org.uk/our-impact](http://www.actiontutoring.org.uk/our-impact)

## How our programmes work



Tutoring sessions take place as a group on the school site once a week before, during or after school hours and last for **1–1.5 hours**. Typically we work with **15–20 pupils** at any one time, with an average ratio of one tutor to two pupils. Programmes run for **15 weeks**, and we aim to deliver **two programmes** with a year group over the academic year.

### Our provision includes:

8 to 10 high-quality, DBS-checked and trained volunteer tutors.

Structured pupil workbooks, developed by curriculum specialists specifically for tutoring sessions.

Tutor workbooks containing guidance on how to explain topics and common misconceptions.

A dedicated Programme Coordinator to engage pupils, support tutors and manage the school partnership.

Progress analysis and reporting for schools.

Full enrolment, induction and engagement support for pupils.

We seek to work closely with Key Stage 2 teachers to ensure that tutoring complements classroom teaching. All pupils enrolled on our programmes sit a baseline assessment, which is used to develop personalised learning plans. Our tutors use these plans to support their pupils' progress in key topic areas and with subject-specific skills. Pupils are then re-assessed to measure progress and map impact made, identifying gaps in knowledge.

## Cost

Our tutoring programmes are subsidised by over 60% through grants and donations, and funding from the National Tutoring Programme. This significantly reduces the amount we ask schools to contribute.

The cost to your school for 15 weeks of tutoring for 18-20 pupils would be **£2,797**. This works out as between £9 and £10 per pupil per session.

Your school can sign up to multiple 15-week blocks to support different age groups or successive blocks to support the same pupils over the whole year.

Please get in touch for more detail on costings.



## Why tutoring?

Research by the Education Endowment Foundation has found that a year-long programme of small-group tuition is an effective intervention and could add as much as **five months' progress** to a young person's schooling.

*They found that "small-group tuition offers an opportunity for greater levels of interaction and feedback compared to whole-class teaching which can support pupils to overcome barriers to learning and increase their access to the curriculum."* <sup>3</sup>

The main barrier for schools wanting to use tutoring is cost. The average cost of a private tutor is £25–30 per hour. <sup>4</sup>

An external evaluation of Action Tutoring's GCSE results showed that pupils attending seven to eight sessions made up to half a grade more progress than their non-tutored peers. <sup>5</sup>



*"We were aware of the growing number of families who could afford extra tuition for their children and we wanted to ensure that as many of our pupils as possible – whatever their background – had the same opportunities to succeed academically. In addition to the more obvious outcomes in reading, writing and maths which improved, we have found that the opportunity to work closely with another adult is of huge benefit to our pupils."*

Adam Hickman

Headteacher at Ashmole Primary School, London

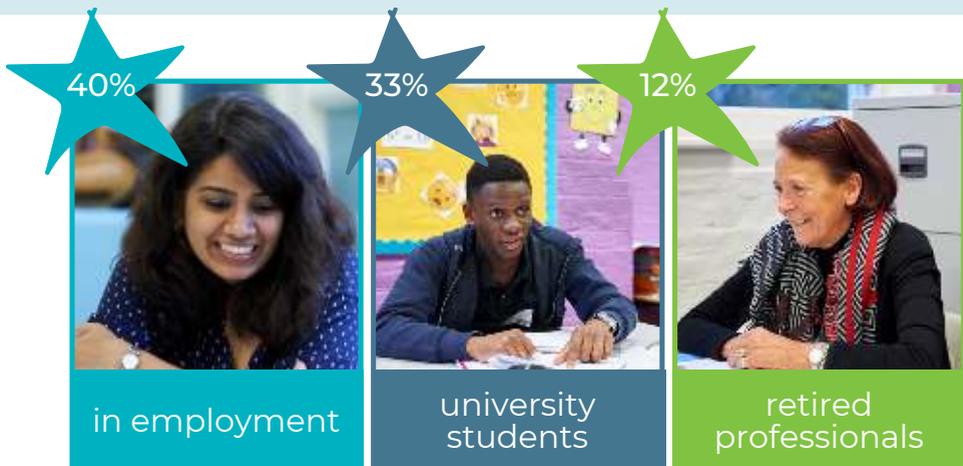
## Tutoring can benefit your pupils by:

- Improving their academic attainment in the tutored subject.
- Boosting their confidence through individual attention.
- Helping them to develop their independent study skills.
- Building on their communications skills by interacting with new adults, helping them prepare for further education, training or employment.

## Who are our volunteers?

All of our volunteers go through a strict selection process which focuses on their academic credentials (degree-educated or equivalent, or studying for a degree, and at least a B at A Level in the subject they wish to tutor) and core tutoring competencies. We also complete DBS checks for them.

Volunteers receive an initial two-hour training session. This covers core tutoring skills, safeguarding training, the time commitment and our expectations. Once they have started a programme, they receive ongoing developmental support through our Bright Ideas updates and access to all the training and materials in our tutor resources library.



15% of our volunteers are not currently in employment or selected 'other' under occupation.

*“Before I started I was a bit apprehensive but once I got here, my Programme Coordinator put me at ease. I think the best thing about volunteering is the fulfilment, just seeing that they’ve clocked the particular concept that they wouldn’t have got in class, but I’ve been able to break through the barriers and teach it to them – that’s quite satisfying.”*

Chike, an Action Tutoring volunteer

## Sources cited

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*"I never used to put my hand up in class. After I started having tutoring with Action Tutoring I'm less scared to put my hand up."*

— A primary pupil in London



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Or call 020 3872 5894  
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