

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 in years 5 and 6 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.

Our Programmes

We offer face-to-face tutoring where tutors come into school or online tutoring where pupils are able to connect with their tutors via our online platform, using computers in your school.

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

On our online programmes our tutoring workbooks are uploaded to the platform for pupils and tutors to work through.



"Action Tutoring has achieved significant progress in closing the attainment gap for pupils by believing that no child's chances should be limited by their socio-economic background and are working tirelessly to provide real solutions to disadvantaged children."

UK's Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, speaking at Action Tutoring's anniversary event

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.

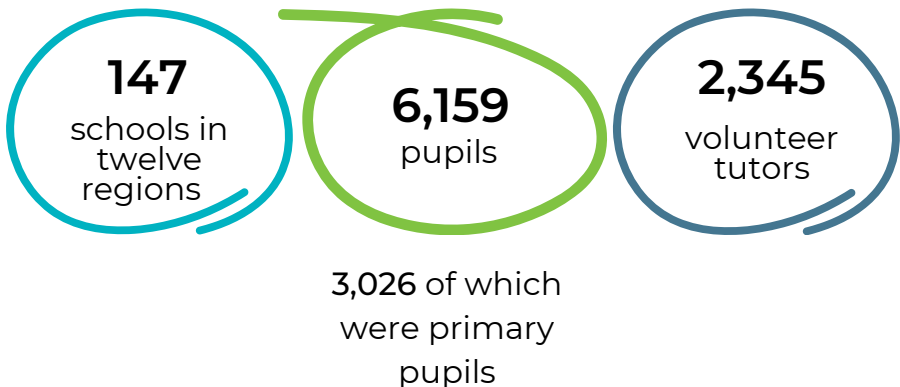


Pupils

Within those schools, we look to work with pupils who:

- Are eligible for Pupil Premium funding
- 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.

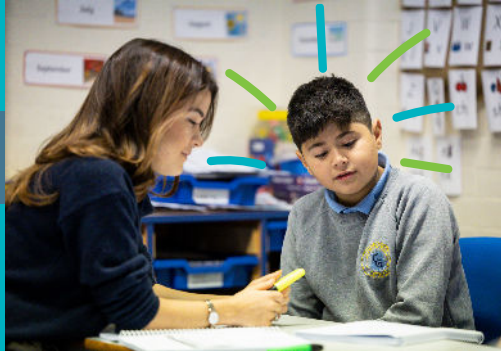
In 2021–22, we worked with:



Our impact

Only 28% of pupils with low attainment at the end of primary school go on to secure a pass in English and maths at the end of secondary school.¹

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.



Year 6 pupils supported by Action Tutoring outperformed their Pupil Premium peers in both reading and maths in 2021–22 SATs by at least eight percentage points. On average, 70% of Action Tutoring PP pupils reached expected standards in reading (compared to a national average of only 62%) and 64% of Action Tutoring PP pupils reached expected standards in maths (compared to only 56% nationally for similar pupils).

Reading



Maths



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 hour**. Typically we work with **18–20 pupils** at any one time, with an average ratio of one tutor to three pupils. Programmes run for **10–20 weeks**, and we aim to deliver **two programmes** over the academic year.

Our provision includes:

5 to 8 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. Schools can fund 50% of the cost of the programme from their NTP grant in 2023-24. We also fundraise a large portion of the cost of the tuition to limit the impact on tight school budgets.

The cost to your school for 10-20 weeks of tutoring for 18-20 pupils would be £1,643. **This works out as less than £6 per pupil per session.**

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

Please get in touch for more detail on costs.



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."* ²

The main barrier for schools wanting to use tutoring is cost. The average cost of a private tutor is £25–30 per hour. ³

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. ⁴

"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

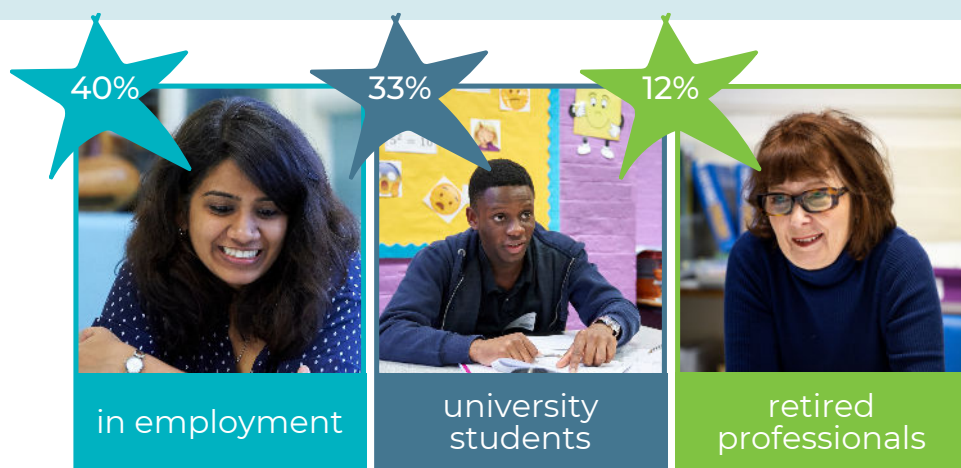
Tutoring can benefit your pupils by:

- 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 online CPD modules and access to all the training and materials in our tutor resources library.



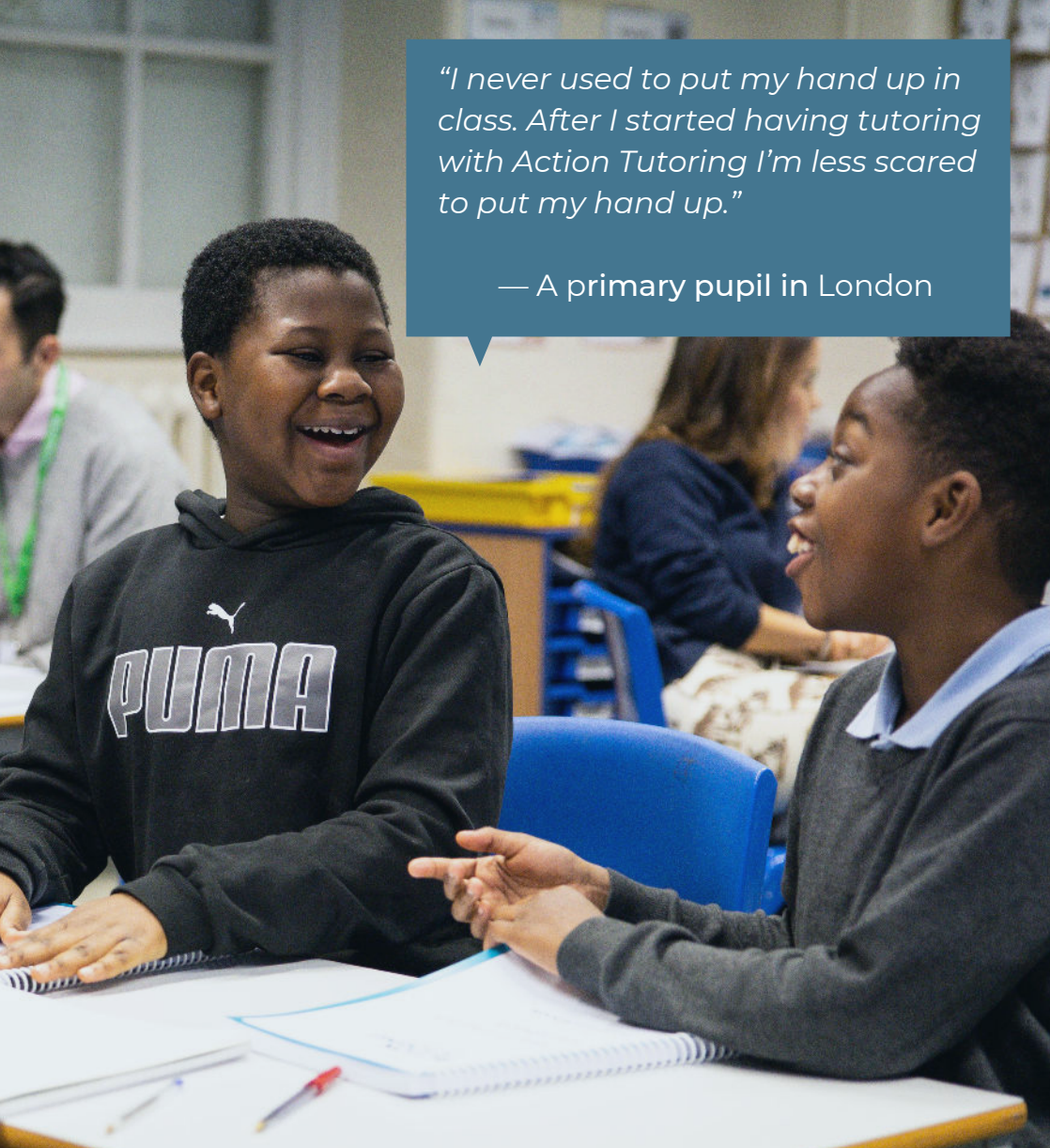
15% of our volunteers are not currently in employment or selected 'other' under occupation.

“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

1. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance-revised>
2. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/small-group-tuition>
3. <https://www.suttontrust.com/news-opinion/all-news-opinion/tackling-the-shadow-education-system-private-tuition/>
4. https://actiontutoring.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/action_tutoring_impact_evaluation.pdf



"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

Email hello@actiontutoring.org.uk
Or call 0300 102 0094
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Registered charity number: 1147175
Registered company number: 8015978

National
Tutoring
Programme

