School Information

School context

Plymouth Grove Primary School is a vibrant, inclusive and highly diverse community school serving the Ardwick area of Manchester. The school sits at the heart of a rich multicultural community and provides education for children aged 3 to 11 years. The school currently has 325 pupils on roll and serves families from a wide range of cultural, linguistic and socio-economic backgrounds.

One of the school's greatest strengths is being a leading UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Plymouth Grove has been a gold award winning school for over 10 years and contributes to the Rights Respecting school approach across Manchester.

The diversity of the school community is one of its greatest strengths. Approximately 96% of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds and 90% speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), significantly above both local and national averages. The largest ethnic groups include Pakistani, Black African and a broad range of other ethnic communities, creating a truly international learning environment where diversity, inclusion and belonging are celebrated every day. The school currently faces the challenge of falling rolls due to low birth rate. The PAN in September 2027 will be set at 30.

Plymouth Grove serves a community facing significant socio-economic challenges. More than 80% of pupils are classified as disadvantaged and 78% are eligible for Free School Meals, considerably higher than Manchester and national averages. The school also serves a community experiencing high levels of deprivation, with a substantial proportion of pupils living in areas that fall within the most deprived national IDACI bands. These circumstances shape the school's unwavering commitment to equity, social justice and ensuring that every child succeed regardless of background.

The school has a strong inclusive ethos and is committed to meeting a wide range of additional needs. Nearly one quarter of pupils are identified with SEND, including 6.3% with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Speech, Language and Communication Needs represent the most common area of identified need. The school works closely with families and external agencies to ensure children receive effective support and intervention, enabling them to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Plymouth Grove prides itself on being a welcoming and nurturing school where relationships are strong and pupils feel safe and valued. The school's behaviour for learning culture is underpinned by high expectations, restorative approaches and a commitment to inclusion. The school has maintained zero permanent exclusions in the last 20 years and suspension rates remain very low. This reflects the school's determination to keep children engaged in education while providing appropriate support for vulnerable pupils.

Attendance remains a key strategic priority. Overall absence is broadly in line with Manchester averages, although persistent absence remains above national figures, reflecting many of the wider challenges experienced within the community. Leaders continue to work proactively with families and external partners to improve attendance and ensure pupils benefit from regular access to education.

Academic outcomes reflect both the strengths of the school and the challenges presented by its context. Outcomes at Key Stage 2 in 2026 were broadly in line with Manchester averages in several areas, with disadvantaged pupils often performing favourably compared with similar pupils locally and nationally. Higher standards in maths are a real strength and consistently above national averages. Progress measures for disadvantaged pupils were particularly positive, indicating that many pupils make strong gains from their starting points. Phonics outcomes have shown significant improvement over recent years, with Year 1 attainment rising to 78.1% in 2026. However, leaders recognise that further work is needed to improve attainment across all phases and to ensure more pupils achieve expected and higher standards by the end of Key Stage 2.

The successful candidate will inherit a school with a strong moral purpose, dedicated staff, supportive governors and a community that values education. Plymouth Grove is characterised by its ambition for every child, commitment to inclusion and belief that disadvantage should never determine destiny. The next Headteacher will have the opportunity to build upon these strengths, further improve outcomes and lead the school

through the next stage of its development while maintaining the values that lie at the heart of the school community.

School Improvement Priorities

Strategic Overview

The implementation plan focuses on seven key priorities: safeguarding, inclusion, curriculum and teaching, attendance and behaviour, personal development and wellbeing, early years, and leadership and governance.

Safeguarding

Strengthen pupil understanding of safeguarding, enhance online safety including AI-related risks, and provide effective supervision and support for DSLs.

Inclusion

Improve outcomes for disadvantaged, SEND and EAL pupils through rigorous monitoring, effective use of pupil premium funding, strong parental engagement and implementation of the Accessibility Plan.

Curriculum and Teaching

Embed high-quality teaching, disciplinary literacy, vocabulary development, reading across the curriculum, strong support for EAL learners and evidence-informed approaches to long-term memory.

Attendance and Behaviour

Implement a two-track strategy combining whole-school attendance improvements with targeted interventions, while ensuring tailored behaviour support for vulnerable pupils.

Personal Development and Wellbeing

Implement the revised PSHE policy and Kapow curriculum to strengthen wellbeing, relationships, safety, citizenship and life readiness.

Early Years

Introduce a revised EYFS curriculum focused on language, reading, writing and number so children are fully prepared for Year 1.

Leadership and Governance

Develop a coherent professional learning programme through instructional coaching, enhance pupil leadership, implement the Climate Action Plan and ensure strong governance oversight.

Governor Monitoring

Governors will monitor safeguarding, attendance, disadvantaged pupil outcomes, curriculum implementation, professional development impact, accessibility, climate action and financial sustainability.

Overall Ambition

To provide a safe, inclusive and ambitious education where every pupil thrives and achieves strong academic, personal and social outcomes by July 2027.

Ofsted Summary

At its most recent Ofsted inspection in February 2023, Plymouth Grove Primary School was confirmed as a good school, with inspectors recognising a strong culture of ambition, inclusion and care for all pupils.

Inspectors found that leaders have established high expectations for learning and behaviour, enabling pupils to achieve well across a broad and carefully sequenced curriculum. Pupils are described as happy, safe and respectful, demonstrating empathy for others and a strong understanding of their responsibilities within the school community. The school's commitment to inclusion was particularly noted, with effective support for pupils with SEND and for those who are new to the country, many of whom speak English as an additional language.

The report highlights the rich opportunities available beyond the classroom, including music, pupil leadership, cultural celebrations, educational visits and a wide range of extracurricular activities. These experiences help prepare pupils well for life in modern Britain and contribute to their personal development.

Ofsted also praised the school's strong safeguarding culture, positive staff morale and effective governance. Areas for further development include ensuring greater consistency in the delivery of phonics and strengthening assessment practices in some curriculum subjects so that any gaps in pupils' learning are identified and addressed promptly. Overall, inspectors recognised Plymouth Grove as a welcoming, ambitious and inclusive school serving its diverse community successfully.

Staffing Structure

SLT	Headteacher Deputy Headteacher School Business Leader
SMT	SENDCO, KS1 Assistant Headteacher LKS2 Assistant Headteacher UKS2 Assistant Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Attendance Lead
Learning Retreat for children with complex needs	SENDCO HLTA 2 x teaching assistants
EYFS	Nursery UQT Reception teacher 4 x Teaching assistants
KS1	2 x Year 1 teachers 1 x Year 2 teacher 3 x teaching assistants
LKS1	2 x Year 3 teachers 2 x Year 4 teachers 4 x teaching assistants
UKS2	2 x Year 5 teachers 2 x Year 6 teachers 4 x teaching assistants
Specialist teachers	Specialist Music teacher Specialist PE teacher EAL teacher
Well-being and Safeguarding	Safeguarding, Attendance and Admissions Lead, Well-Being and Forest School Lead
Administration and Site Manager	School Business Manager 2 x finance administrators 1 x receptionist 2 x site managers
Catering and lunchtime organisers	1 x catering manager 4 x catering staff 3 x lunchtime organisers

Financial Position

Plymouth Grove Primary School - CFR Report				
Income				
CFR	**Detail**	**2026 - 27**	**2027 - 28**	**2028 - 29**
I01	Funds Delegated by the LA	2,482,726	2,370,119	2,245,709
I02	Funding for Sixth Form Students	0	0	0
I03	SEN Funding	135,282	120,410	112,596
I04	Funding for Minority Ethnic Pupils	0	0	0
I05	Pupil Premium	386,180	310,230	310,230
I06	Other Government Grants	46,060	19,585	19,585
I07	Other Grants and Payments	6,185	6,185	6,185
I08a	Income from Lettings	0	0	0
I08b	Other income from facilities and services	30	30	30
I09	Income from Catering	26,220	26,220	26,220
I10	Supply Teacher Insurance Claims	0	0	0
I11	Other Insurance Claims	2,012	0	0
I12	Contributions to Educational Visits	6,034	6,034	6,034
I13	Donations and/or Voluntary Funds	0	0	0
I14	Blank Code	0	0	0
I15	Pupil Ext Sch Funding and/or Grants	0	0	0
I16	Community Focused Funding and/or Grants	0	0	0
I17	Community Focused Facilites Income	0	0	0
Income Revenue Total		**3,090,729**	**2,858,813**	**2,726,589**

Expenditure				
CFR	**Detail**	**2026 - 27**	**2027 - 28**	**2028 - 29**
E01	Teaching Staff	1,448,665	1,340,526	1,292,460
E02	Supply Teaching Staff	0	0	0
E03	Education Support Staff	549,420	601,110	632,601
E04	Premises Staff	74,392	76,665	79,006
E05	Administrative Staff	181,168	188,007	193,729
E06	Catering Staff	118,277	127,932	131,905
E07	Other Staff	10,444	10,780	11,126
E08	Indirect Employee Expenses	12,763	10,646	10,636
E09	Development and Training	4,349	4,206	4,223
E10	Supply Teacher Insurance	0	0	0
E11	Other Staff Related Insurance	8,841	8,841	8,841
E12	Building Maintenance and Improvement	1,980	2,011	2,042
E13	Grounds Maintenance and Improvement	38,964	2,407	1,115
E14	Cleaning and Caretaking	98,641	100,231	101,852
E15	Water and Sewerage	7,000	7,000	7,000
E16	Energy	48,750	50,212	51,719
E17	Rates	0	0	0
E18	Other Occupation Costs	5,721	5,778	5,836
E19	Learning Resources (not ICT)	77,127	72,125	72,527
E20a	Connectivity	2,552	7,406	7,480
E20b	Onsite servers	0	0	0

E20c	IT learning resources	16,269	16,331	16,393
E20d	Administration software and systems	0	0	0
E20e	Laptops, desktops and tablets	5,000	5,000	5,000
E20f	Other hardware	0	0	0
E20g	IT support	12,727	15,660	15,739
E21	Exam Fees	0	0	0
E22	Administrative Supplies	15,883	15,980	16,078
E23	Other Insurance Costs	10,744	10,852	10,960
E24	Special Facilities	500	500	500
E25	Catering Supplies	113,589	97,266	97,934
E26	Agency Supply Teaching Staff	43,561	10,000	10,000
E27	Bought in Prof Services - Curric	183,183	113,092	90,138
E28a	Bought in professional services – other (except PFI)	39,082	37,083	37,401
E28b	Bought in professional services – other (PFI)	36,468	41,712	41,712
E29	Loan Interest	0	0	0
E30	Revenue Contributions to Capital	0	0	0
E31	Community Focused School Staff	0	0	0
E32	Community Focused School Costs	0	0	0
Expenditure Revenue Total		**3,166,059**	**2,979,358**	**2,955,954**
In Year Surplus / (Deficit)		**-75,330**	**-120,546**	**-229,365**
Surplus / (Deficit) Brought Fwd		**212,770**	**137,440**	**16,894**
Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) C/Fwd		**137,440**	**16,894**	**-212,471**

Capital Income				
CFR	**Detail**	**2026 - 27**	**2027 - 28**	**2028 - 29**
CI01	Capital Income	8,277	8,277	8,277
CI03	Voluntary or Private income	0	0	0
CI04	Direct revenue financing (revenue contributions to capital)	0	0	0
Capital Income Total		**8,277**	**8,277**	**8,277**
Capital Expenditure				
CFR	**Detail**	**2026 - 27**	**2027 - 28**	**2028 - 29**
CE01	Acquisition of Land and Existing Buildings	0	0	0
CE02	New Construction Conversion and Renovation	0	0	0
CE03	Vehicles, Plant, Equipment and Machinery	0	0	0
CE04a	Connectivity	0	0	0
CE04b	Onsite servers	0	0	0
CE04c	Administration software and systems	0	0	0
CE04d	Laptops, desktops and tablets	12,107	8,277	8,277
CE04e	Other hardware	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure Total		**12,107**	**8,277**	**8,277**

In Year Surplus / (Deficit)	**-3,830**	**0**	**0**
Surplus / (Deficit) Brought Fwd	**3,780**	**-50**	**-50**
Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) C/Fwd	**-50**	**-50**	**-50**