

A guide to the Pupil Premium



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Foundations

Services for those living or working with
looked after, adopted and vulnerable children

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What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium describes an amount of money given to schools to enable them to raise the attainment of disadvantaged children. There are currently three rates, which are awarded each year:

- Service Child Premium - £300
- Pupil premium - £1300 (Primary) or £953 (secondary)
- Pupil Premium Plus - £1900

What are the eligibility criteria?

Currently eligible children from years Reception to Year 11, who are in either mainstream or non mainstream publically funded schools.

Service Child premium

- Children of parents serving in the armed forces

Pupil Premium

- Children who have been eligible for free school means at any time during the last 6 months

Pupil Premium Plus

- Children in care
- Children that left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991 (under the Children Act 1989)
- Children that have left care under a Special Guardianship Order
- Children who have been adopted from care

Why are these groups of children getting a Pupil Premium?

The groups of children who attract the pupil premium have been deemed to be at a disadvantage to their peers. For example, a child whose parents are serving in the armed forces may need additional help with certain curriculum subjects after moving from abroad, whereas looked after or adopted children may need additional emotional support due to their experiences of grief, loss and often trauma.

Whereas not all children in these groups will need additional support, many of them will. The

pupil premium is a way to ensure that these children are helped to make progress emotionally, socially and academically.

Do schools have to spend the additional funding they are getting on the individual child?

This additional funding is given to schools to improve the outcomes for pupils who have been identified as eligible for the pupil premium. It is not intended that the additional funding should be used to complement the general school budget nor is it the policy intention that the funding should be used to support other groups of pupils, such as those with special educational needs or who are low attaining.

However, the funding is not ring-fenced and is not for individual children. Therefore the school does not have to spend the exact amount on the particular eligible child. Instead schools may decide to use the money on things such as staff training, or whole class interventions. Please see below for our list of ideas on how to spend the pupil premium.

What is the role of parents or carers?

Whereas most groups of children will be automatically eligible for the pupil premium, those children who have left care under a Residence Order, Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order will not. It will be up to the parents or carers of these children to self-declare their child's status and provide supporting evidence to the school.

In order to achieve the best results from the pupil premium it would be good practice for schools to liaise with parents or carers on how to best spend the grant. School staff may be unfamiliar with the background information for some children and issues which may be causing barriers to their learning. Therefore, working with parents and carers will be vital in supporting the child appropriately.

How can the money be spent?

Whereas it is up to schools to decide how best to spend this money, it is important that eligibility for the Pupil Premium is not confused with low ability, and the focus is on supporting disadvantaged pupils to achieve to the best of their ability.

Some schools will choose to spend the grant on individual children to meet particular needs and difficulties, others will pool money together to develop projects or gain additional training.

Below are some ideas on how you could spend the pupil premium:

For individual children

- Additional Teaching assistant hours
- Individual tuition in targeted subjects
- Specialist assessments (eg: Educational Psychologist)
- Child mentoring
- Individual staff training in attachment difficulties and developmental trauma
- Specialist educational consultations
- Therapy support (eg: additional speech and language therapy)

- Educational trips
- School uniform
- School meals (if not already eligible for free school meals)
- Before/after school activities
- Music lessons
- Equipment (eg: laptop, tablet, stationary etc..)
- Sensory toys/materials

For groups of children

- Additional Teaching assistant hours
- Training and implementation of a key worker
- Small group tuition in targeted subjects
- Training and support of peer mentors
- Professional story tellers
- Safety awareness assemblies
- Visiting theatre groups
- Whole school staff training in attachment difficulties and developmental trauma
- Start up, or development of a school based nurture group
- Start up, or development of school based programmes (eg: peer massage, forest school, social groups, circle of friends groups, food dudes etc..)
- Set up, or development of a sensory area

We hope you have found this information useful. If you would like any further information on the Pupil Premium, or any of our other services then please do not hesitate to contact us



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