

Children Looked After Pupil Premium Policy 2018/2019

Our policy is informed by two key Department for Education (DfE) documents:

1. Pupil Premium Conditions of Grant (published annually)
2. Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15 - Frequently Asked Questions (March 2014)

Key points about Pupil Premium for CLA from the DfE

- The Pupil Premium funding for CLA is different and separate from the Pupil Premium provided to schools based on census returned relating to children in receipt of free school meals or from service families
- Pupil Premium funding to support children and young people in care, aged 5 – 16 and at school is released to the LA at a rate of £2,300 per CLA
- Children and young people will be eligible for funding as soon as they enter care
- The overall grant allocated to each LA is calculated on a per capita basis, however, it does not have to be distributed on a per capita basis, given that children and young people in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care
- The grant must be managed by the Virtual School Head and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap” as identified in the Personal Education Plan [PEP] in consultation with the designated teacher, Social Worker, carer and Virtual School advisor.
- As a result, PEPs need to be monitored closely by Designated Teachers, the Virtual School, Social Workers, CSC Managers and Independent Reviewing Officers.
- Pupil Premium funding is available to children from the age of three attending Pre-School settings but at a different rate from children and young people attending school – see details below
- In addition and through a separate process, children adopted from care and those on Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangement Orders from care are entitled to £2,300 passed directly to the school. **NB This grant is outside the remit of the Virtual School and not subject to the terms of this policy.**

Allocation of Pupil Premium for Children Looked After by Somerset Virtual School

- Schools with a (Somerset) Child Looked After on their roll (Reception to Year 11) will have £500 available at the beginning of each long term to support planned interventions that term.

- The Virtual School will not usually approve requests for all three term's funding to be allocated 'up front' as pupil mobility and the inability to review the impact of provision can make this a less effective use of the funding
- Pupil Premium will be paid to schools provided that there is a good, up to date PEP in place which:
 - Identifies the learning needs and progress of the child
 - Has a clear action plan to address the needs and promote progress with SMART targets
 - Demonstrates how the Pupil Premium allocated will be used to support the child's learning, increasing engagement and improving rates of progress and academic outcomes as outlined in the child's targets
 - Is clear and comprehensive, especially for readers who are not education specialists

Please note – Pupil Premium will not be paid to schools where there is no plan to use it or where the plan (PEP) is not deemed to meet required standards as determined by the Virtual School's advisory team and may be recouped if it has already been allocated or subsequent terms' payment withheld.

Please let us know if your school does not require the full amount so that we can allocate it to other pupils.

- The Pupil Premium must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:
 - Academic achievement and progress
 - Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child is gifted and talented
 - Attendance
 - Inclusion [by reducing internal and external exclusion]
 - Social Skills linked to education
 - Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider

The impact of all interventions must be reviewed and documented within the PEP. Any planned intervention should be intended to bring about positive difference within the classroom.
- The Virtual School allocates the funding it retains to provide additional support, for example:
 - Extra funding where the school makes a good case for additional support (see below)
 - Transition support for children and young people moving to new schools in line with long-term care plans or foster placement changes.
 - Support for children in care not in education and in need of additional support to return to full time education.
 - Training for designated teachers and other staff who work in schools, especially in regards to attachment.

How and why will the amount of Pupil Premium vary?

- Each Child Looked After will have different needs – some will need more support, some less. It is up to those attending the PEP meeting to decide what actions are needed to help narrow gaps.
- We know from research that one to one tuition is one of the most effective ways of raising standards for many Children Looked After – this costs around £40 per hour (about £1400 per year).
- There are many other ways of using the funding however, such as mentoring, work experience and extra TA support.
- Whatever is decided at the meeting, the PEP form should outline specific targets and interventions and track outcomes and impact.

If the child has additional needs then designated teachers are asked to contact the Virtual School to discuss proposals and – if agreed - record these in detail on the PEP form along with objectives and evaluation criteria. Granting of requests will require an exceptional case to be made in order to obtain additional funding approval.

Proposals to pool Pupil Premium in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to Children who are Looked After needs via the PEP, may be allowed but must be discussed with and approved by the Virtual Head.

Circumstances in which Pupil Premium will not be provided

Pupil Premium will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already have been allocated to the school to support the child and specifically:

- to fund services that should be provided via a statement, or EHC Plan or to meet costs that Higher Needs Funding should be supporting
- other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health
- to fund therapeutic interventions that do not have a direct and demonstrable link to improving academic outcomes
- The interventions put in place do not require any funding
- The school's or carers own funding covers the cost of the interventions/resources
- The PEP does not meet Virtual School requirements

Recoupment policy

- We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the CLA's needs as set out in the PEP

Allocation of grant to independent schools and residential providers

- Pupil Premium **will not** be paid automatically to independent schools or residential providers because these are already funded at a high level by central budgets.
- Payments can be made to meet individual needs in exceptional circumstances provided this is discussed with the Virtual School.

Pupil Premium For children in Pre-School Settings

- The Virtual School will pay £100.00 each term (i.e. 3 x in an academic year) to pre-school settings with a Somerset CLA aged three or four on roll when a high quality PEP document is submitted to the Virtual School. The PEP must include details of how the funding will be used to support engagement, progress and attainment.

Pupil Premium for Adopted Children (Previously Looked After Children) and Children subject to Special Guardianship (SGO) or Child Arrangement Orders (CAO)

- Post LAC pupil premium funding is only available for those children and young people who were in care in England or Wales immediately prior to the adoption/SG/CA order being granted. This must be declared on the school census and on this basis the funding will be released directly to the school.
- Schools must declare and record those eligible adopted/SG/CAO children on the school census. The census collects information regarding children, who – on census day – have left local authority care in England and Wales through either adoption, a special guardianship order, a residence order or a child arrangement order. It is for those with parental responsibility (adoptive parents, special guardians and carers of former looked after children on residence / child arrangements orders) to decide if they wish to self-declare their children's status to schools. Parents are to provide supporting evidence, for example, a photocopy of the adoption order, and confirm that their child was previously in care. Parents may conceal sensitive information (for example the name of the birth parents) should they wish.
- Schools are reminded that this is particularly sensitive data and of the ongoing need for confidentiality. Schools should ensure that, as for other pupil level data items, they comply with their responsibilities with respect to the data protection act when processing this data. Schools record the information using the following codeset. Only one of the values will apply to each pupil and a school's MIS should provide a default value of N – not declared.

Code - Description

N - Not declared

A - Ceased to be looked after through adoption

G - Ceased to be looked after through a special guardianship order (SGO)

R - Ceased to be looked after through a residence order (RO)

C - Ceased to be looked after through a child arrangement order (CAO)

School census 2017 to 2018: guide for schools and LAs

Pupil Premium for Children and Young People from other Local Authorities

- Different approaches will be adopted by different Local Authorities. Somerset schools who have Children and Young People in Care from other Local Authorities on their roll must contact the head teacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their Pupil Premium policy. Nationally, all head teachers of Virtual schools are responsible for the allocation of Pupil Premium for all school aged Children and Young People in care within their authorities, even though the child/young person is educated in a Somerset school. The name and contact details of other Virtual School head teachers can be requested from the Somerset Virtual School team.

Revised Summer 2018