



All Kent Schools

Education and Young People's Services

Sessions House
County Hall
MAIDSTONE
Kent ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 41 41 41

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Dear Colleagues

I am very aware that schools are experiencing some mixed messages concerning Pupil Premium Funding for the next academic year, so I thought you might appreciate some clarity around the changes to Pupil Premium funding which are now in place. We have attached a complete summary of these changes at the end of this letter.

The key expectation that all Headteachers are responsible for allocating the funding to raise attainment of disadvantaged students remains unchanged. The main changes apply to Looked After Children.

Looked After Children

Funding will be allocated to the home school or the Virtual School according to the criteria listed in the table.

It remains the case that it is for schools to decide how best to meet the educational needs identified and we know that this will not necessarily add up to the exact amount and indeed in some cases may be considerably more than the allocated funding.

As for all children, schools need to be able to demonstrate that individual pupils, who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding, have their needs met and that they make better than expected progress. Whilst it is anticipated that the school will track the interventions each pupil receives and the impact of these actions on their attainment and progress, it is not necessary to account for the funding on an individual child basis. Good practice would suggest that schools are already tracking individual pupils' learning experiences and the impact of interventions.

The Head of the Virtual School will be required to demonstrate the impact of interventions that all children in care have received in the VSK returns to the DfE.

Schools should be aware that adopted children or children on special guardianship orders or residence orders need to be identified in the school's census and treated in the same way as other FSM children or service children. Schools receive the budget for these children.

There are three main changes:

- Children in care will attract a pupil premium of £1900, more than double the amount they were eligible for in 2013-14.
- Secondly, the cohort of children in care who attract the pupil premium is bigger and includes children who are eligible from the first day of being in care rather than, as previously, only those who had been in care after for six months or more.
- Thirdly, for 2014-15 the pupil premium for children in care must be managed by the Virtual School Head in the local authority that is responsible for them. Unlike in previous years, there is no requirement for an authority to pass the funding onto the school where the child is on roll. However, the presumption is that funding will be passed to the school to contribute towards meeting the needs identified in their Personal Education Plan, and where this does not happen it should be challenged.

What this will mean for Kent Schools:

Our intention is that discussions that are held between the Virtual School and the designated teacher should result in funding being passed to the school. It is important to note however that no child in care has an automatic entitlement to full pupil premium funding and grant allocation is awarded on a needs basis. Each student's Personal Education Plan will accurately identify the child's needs and funding will be allocated on this basis in agreement between the Virtual School and the home school.

There may be cases where it is appropriate to withhold partial funding, for example, where:

- a) there is a social or emotional need which can be better met outside of school with specialist counselling or therapy accessed via the Virtual School.
- b) there is a training need which will be paid for by the Virtual School but accessed by teachers from a group of schools (examples of this may include specialist training courses for such things as teaching autistic children where a group of teachers may benefit from such training).
- c) there may be other multi-agency initiatives which benefit a number of students and/or schools (examples of this may include meta-cognitive skills or reading programmes such as paired reading or 'Letter Box Club').

The Virtual School will be recording spending and impact on a child by child basis, and they will support schools to evidence impact during any Ofsted inspection process. It is important to note that in accordance with DfE guidelines, it is anticipated that in the vast majority of cases, funding will be passed on to the school to enable it to meet the Personal Education Plans for children in care.

It is also important to note that the pupil premium plus budget funding stream is an allocation to the Virtual School, not an exact sum of money to spend per child. Schools should not assume that they will receive £1900 per child. The Virtual School Head might also negotiate with a school regarding pooling pupil premium funding for children in care to provide an enhanced and more intensive package of support. An example of this might be that a school purchases a reading recovery scheme and tutor across the whole school for each looked after child to access. Another example may be where a cluster of schools pool the grant applied for to develop a package of support for the young people i.e. a developmental curriculum offer around meta-cognition and self-regulation. In such applications the schools would enter in to discussion with the Virtual School and the School Improvement Team.

The Virtual school has made a direct payment of £790 per child in care per school for the summer term. This was due to the late announcement of the changes to Pupil Premium for Children in Care, in some cases after schools had already agreed their budgets. From Term One in September this new arrangement will be in place and VSK will discuss every child in care with individual schools to ensure that appropriate funding is received for every pupil.

It is proposed that in cases where a dispute arises, an appeals system will be implemented. The Head of the Virtual school, the Director Education Quality and Standards, the Lead Cabinet Member for Education, Lead Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services and the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel will listen to the case made by the home school and will make a final decision.

I do hope that this clarifies the situation for you but please do not hesitate to contact the Principal Advisors for Primary, Secondary or Special schools if you have any concerns or further queries.

Best wishes



Sue Rogers
Director Education, Quality and Standards
Education and Young People's Services

PPG provides funding for two policies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and closing the gap with their peers; and • Supporting children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces 	
Disadvantaged pupils	Pupil Premium per pupil
Pupils in Year Groups R to 6 recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£1,300
Pupils in Year Groups 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£935
Looked After Children (LAC)	£1,900
Children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order	£1,900
Service children	
Pupils in Year Groups R to 11 recorded as Ever 4 Service Child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.	£300

To download the full document (Pupil Premium 2014 to 2015: conditions of grant February 2014) please visit www.gov.uk/government/publications. Reference: DFE-00050-2014

Also see:

Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15: Frequently asked questions
VSK Pupil Premium Plus Policy.