

Children & Young People in Care Pupil Premium Plus Policy Financial Year 2023/24



For:

Social Workers

Foster Carers

Designated Teachers

Virtual School

West Berkshire
Council
September 2023



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

Pupil Premium Plus Policy & Procedures

1. Introduction

The following policy takes into account the Pupil Premium 2023 to 2024 Conditions of Grant and additional advice published in: “Pupil Premium: virtual school heads’ responsibilities” (9 July 2014). Throughout our policy, the Pupil Premium for children in care will be referred to as Pupil Premium Plus to distinguish it from other forms of Pupil Premium allocations.

Virtual School Headteachers continue to be responsible for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating Pupil Premium Plus funding to benefit children in care as described in their personal education plan (PEP).

LAs may not carry forward funding held centrally. Centrally held Pupil Premium Plus that has not been spent, or allocated to the child’s education setting, by 31 March 2024 will be recovered by the DfE.

PPP does not have to be distributed on an even 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 and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap”.

Children adopted from care or who have left care:

Children who left care, following an Adoption, Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order are entitled to £2,530 per year but this funding comes from the government to the school and does not pass through the Virtual School. This grant is therefore outside the remit of this policy.

2. Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) Policy

Overall principles underpinning our needs led model:

The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for the use of Pupil Premium Plus to improve outcomes for children in care, wherever they live. Some of the funding is retained by the Virtual School to fund support and interventions. The rest is earmarked for distribution to schools through the PEP.

Retained Funding:

In 2022/23, funding retained by the virtual school will be used for the following activities:

Team	Purpose
Educational Psychology	Exclusion Reduction
Emotional Health Academy	Emotion Based School Avoidance Reduction
Education Welfare Service	Attendance Monitoring
Cognition and Learning Team	Literacy and Numeracy Assessments

Virtual School	PEP Co-ordinator
Capita	Attendance Tracking
Letterbox Club	Literacy and Numeracy activities
Touchbase	7 Day Attachment Lead Training

Core Funding to schools:

The Virtual School will offer a commitment of up to £1500 core funding to every statutory school aged child in mainstream education. This will be requested and approved through PEP meetings and must be linked directly to outcomes. The funding will be released at the following times:

	Amount	Closing Date
Autumn PEP	Up to £1000	December 2023
Spring PEP	N/A	N/A
Summer PEP	Up to £500	July 2023

Any unspent funding will be redistributed after these cut off dates.

Pupil Premium Plus cannot be used to fund activities and support that would normally be funded by a school or through an Education, Health and Care Plan. It is expected that children and young people in high cost specialist provisions will have their needs fully met and do not require additional funding. In such cases PPP can only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Third Party Educational Provision:

Any core funding request that includes alternative provision provided by a third party, eg tuition agency, will only be approved if the appropriate checks and measures have been completed. These are listed on the PEP form and can be requested from the Virtual School.

In-Year School Moves:

For learners who start mid-way through the year (and are not part of the local authority's census) the Virtual School will use centrally held PPP to ensure that they receive the core funding commitment.

Links to the PEP:

The Pupil Premium Plus will only be provided to meet the needs identified in the PEP and will be tracked in the PEP with clear quantitative (and exceptionally qualitative) targets for improvement.

The Pupil Premium Plus must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:

- Academic achievement and progress
- Wider achievement eg in an area in which the child is gifted and talented
- Attendance
- Inclusion (by reducing internal and external exclusion)
- Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider

The PEP must show the target for improvement, expected outcomes and cost of the support.

How and why will the amount of Pupil Premium Plus vary?

Children's needs vary and can 'spike'. In view of this, there will be variance in the amount of Pupil Premium Plus distributed to each child. Equally, some children and young people already have additional funding in place through SEN and EHCP funding, which should meet their educational support needs.

In situations where core funding is not enough to meet identified needs, this can be discussed at the PEP Meeting and additional funding requests can be submitted through the child's PEP. The Virtual School Headteacher will look at these on a case by case basis and make individual decisions accordingly.

Requests are more likely to be accepted if the recipient is at high risk, eg is out of school and requires 1:1 tuition, is at risk of permanent exclusion, or is at risk of exploitation and that the services funded by the child's school and those funded by the Virtual School have been exhausted (EHA, EPS, TTTS, etc).

Please note that national and international studies have shown that one to one tuition has a disproportionately positive impact for children in care.

Requests from private providers:

We will provide extra funding to independent education providers only in exceptional circumstances because these placements are already funded at a high level by central budgets.

Circumstances in which Pupil Premium Plus will/will not be approved

The vast majority of Pupil Premium Plus requests will be approved. Applications that should be funded by children's services, the school or the carer are likely to be declined.

Proposals to pool Pupil Premium Plus in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to children in care's needs via the PEP, are allowed. However, pooled funding should not result in interventions being denied because funding has 'run out'.

The table below should prove helpful in identifying the best ways to allocate funding:

Applications that will be approved:	Applications that won't be approved:
1:1 Tuition	Transport Costs
1:1 Teaching Assistant Support	School Uniform
ELSA support	School Equipment
Literacy and Numeracy Interventions	1:1 Teaching Assistants used by the whole class
Revision Guides	School Trips which are funded through the foster carer allowance
Books to encourage reading or that build on the work done in the classroom	Extracurricular activities which are funded through the foster carer allowance, eg cubs, scouts, girl guides, youth club, theatre club, football club, etc.
Settling to Learn Interventions, eg 'Draw and Talk'	Therapy, eg Art Therapy, Play Therapy, Psychotherapy (all these need to go through Children's Services to ensure the right person is appointed and the intervention is monitored through the Care Plan)
Maestros or an independent provider who has undergone appropriate safeguarding checks	School interventions that could be accessed anyway, eg homework club, revision classes
Mentoring for learning or behaviour	Provision that should be covered by an Education, Health and Care Plan
A laptop and relevant software, including web-safety.	
Alternative providers as a means of reducing the risk of exclusion	

Recoupment policy

We will not recoup Pupil Premium Plus where a child moves during the term, providing the school can evidence that they have spent the termly allocation on the pupil. However, we will provide the new school with sufficient funding to secure a successful transition.

We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the child's needs.

3. Management and accountability

The Headteacher of the Virtual School will be accountable to the Corporate Parenting Panel and the DfE for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process and ensuring maximised impact of the grant. If any of the grant is unspent at the end of the financial year, it must be returned to the DofE and cannot be carried forward into the next financial year.

4. Pupil Premium Plus for Children and Young People from other Local Authorities

Different approaches will be adopted by different LAs, as the contexts vary so much, in terms of number of school-aged children in care, the size of Virtual School team and the existing operational budget for the Virtual School team (both vary enormously between LAs).

West Berkshire schools with children looked after by other local authorities must contact the Headteacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their Pupil Premium Plus policy. Virtual School Headteachers are responsible for the allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus, regardless of where a child is being educated.

5. The Pupil Premium Plus for children in the Early Years

Children looked after by the LA, aged 3 and 4 years and accessing funded entitlement hours will attract EYPP funding of up to 15 hours per week if they have:

- been in local-authority care for 1 day or more in England or Wales
- been adopted from care in England or Wales
- left Local Authority care under an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order. For children in care, the local authority who has responsibility for the child will need to identify eligible children through the Virtual School Headteacher. This includes children in care placed out of authority. The Virtual School Headteacher is not responsible for children looked after by other authorities who are placed in their authority and attend education settings there.

Local authorities should only fund providers for the EYPP based on the number of hours of early education a child receives. An important principle of the EYPP is that the funding follows the child. This means that if a child moves to a different provider during the year, local authorities should determine the allocation of EYPP that is proportionate to the number of hours of early education that a child takes up at the new provider. Moving between providers should not result in loss of funding by providers as this should be calculated on actual number of hours.

In West Berkshire, it has been agreed that the EYPP will be distributed by the Early Years team. Applications are made through the Early Years Funding Portal. Providers must ensure that they have a completed Early Years Pupil Premium Voluntary Registration Form from a carer before they can apply for EYPP. For further information or advice please email: Earlyyears@westberks.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Contact details of West Berkshire Virtual School team

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If you require this document in an alternative format
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