

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for children in care

Accessing funding to improve educational outcomes of children and young people in care

A guidance and policy document

This guidance and policy document has been produced by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for children in care in collaboration with our Education Funding Teams. It draws on the current Department for Education (DfE) *Pupil premium conditions of grant 2018-19* and new statutory guidance for LAs and Designated Teachers where Pupil Premium for children looked after is specifically referenced. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

Although Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have one Virtual School, it is important to recognise that funding for children in care is allocated by the DfE separately to each LA to support the education of those children in their care.

This document is correct as of May 2018 and will be annually updated. If you do not see the information you need, please contact the Virtual School team for further advice. Please note that in the different documents referred to in this policy and guidance, you will see the terms *Pupil Premium Plus*, *PP+* and *LAC Pupil Premium* used interchangeably.

A flow chart providing a visual overview of this guidance may be found on page 12.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

What is DSG funding for children in care?

School budget shares are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which is allocated to schools using a formula based on the characteristics of the pupils attending the school. Up until 31st March 2018, the school funding formula included a factor for looked after children. In 2017/18, Hampshire's Schools Forum set this at £1,983 per looked after child and on the Isle of Wight this was set at £304 per looked after child (regardless to which LA a child was in care).

As part of the National Funding Formula, implemented by the DfE from 2018/19, the funding previously included in local authorities school funding formulae for looked after children has transferred to the Pupil Premium Grant. This will not necessarily match the amount previously allocated by each LA's Schools Forum as set out above. This factor does not now form part of the National Funding Formula used to determine each local authority's DSG allocation for schools. The 'looked after children' factor is still allowable in local school funding formulae and it is up to each School Forum to determine their local arrangements. School budget share funding has not been reduced as a result of deleting the 'looked after children' factor.

Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)

What is PP+?

PP+ (also called LAC premium) is additional grant funding from the DfE for children in care. The purpose of the grant is to close the attainment gap for this cohort of children and improve their educational outcomes. The funding is provided as part of the government's policy to *[raise] the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential.*

PP+ is provided for each child who is in care for at least one day as recorded in the March SSDA903 children looked after data return and aged 4-15 as at 31 August. Pupils from Year R to Year 11 are eligible for PP+.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2018-to-2019/pupil-premium-2018-to-2019-conditions-of-grant>

What are the different kinds of Pupil Premium and where does PP+ fit within this funding structure?

There are two kinds:

1. Disadvantaged pupils
2. Service children

PP+ is part of the grant funding for 'disadvantaged' children whereby:

- Pupils in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 free school meals
- Pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM (free school meals)
- **Looked-after children (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority**
- Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order (The Virtual School has a separate FAQ addressing this funding).

How is PP+ different from the other pupil premium for disadvantaged pupils?

The main difference is that funding must be fully pass ported to schools. Pupil Premium Plus can be held centrally by the Virtual School of each LA.

What are the responsibilities of the Virtual School Head in relation to PP+?

VSHs, working with education settings, should implement PP+ arrangements for all looked-after children, in need of support for whom the authority is responsible, in accordance with the latest conditions of grant published by the department and any supplementary departmental advice it issues. VSHs have considerable flexibility in

the use of PP+ funding in order to maximise its impact for individual looked-after children as well as the whole looked-after cohort. (DFE Statutory Guidance P 19)

The LAC premium must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the looked-after child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.

(2018-19 Conditions of Grant)

Virtual School Heads have responsibility for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating pupil premium funding to benefit children looked after by their authority.

That means:

- Making sure that pupil premium funding for looked after children is spent effectively and fully, given any under spend needs to be returned to the Department at the end of the financial year;
- Being able to demonstrate how pupil premium funding managed by the Virtual School Head is linked to raising achievement for looked after children and closing the gap between their achievement and that of their peers
- Having arrangements in place to engage with the looked after child's school (usually with the Designated Teacher) about how pupil premium funding allocated to the school is contributing to meet the needs identified in his/her Personal Education Plan.

How does the Virtual School hold schools to account for ensuring that Pupil Premium Plus impacts on children's educational progress and outcomes?

Schools are accountable for the educational attainment and progress of all disadvantaged pupils who attract pupil premium on their roll and held to account through Ofsted inspections.

Schools need to be clear about the ways in which this funding meets the needs of individual children as identified in their PEP and recorded within their targets. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight PEP includes a page on which PP+ spend and its impact can be tracked and recorded. PEPs are quality assured by the Virtual School team who will challenge constructively where there is insufficient detail to show how the money has been spent or the impact it is making.

Virtual School Heads and others involved in Personal Education Plans will want a constructive dialogue with schools about how best to support looked after children using the pupil premium. As part of this process, in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, use and impact of PP+ is also monitored as part of Corporate Parent visits to schools. The Virtual School additionally takes an annual report to Schools Forum in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight around the use and impact of PP+, together with an overview of arrangements and any changes for the following financial year.

School Governors have an important role in determining what impact Pupil Premium Plus has in supporting the educational achievement of looked-after (and previously looked-after) children.

Governing bodies should, through the designated teacher, hold the school to account on how it supports its looked-after and previously looked-after children (including how the PP+ is used) and their level of progress.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

During 2018, the Virtual School team has undertaken a review of PP+ in Hampshire and findings will be shared and used to inform improvements to the way this funding is spent so that it makes maximum impact on pupils. This will be undertaken on the Isle of Wight during 2018-19.

What is the current DfE allocation?

As of April 2018, the DfE allocates £2,300 per child in care. This represents an increase from the £1900 previously paid. The extra funding provided by the PP+ reflects the significant additional barriers faced by looked-after children.

Please note, however that the amount allocated to schools may vary according to the arrangements put in place by each LA's virtual school on behalf of their children in care. From April 2014 onwards, responsibility for managing PP+ funding for children in care was passed to the designated Virtual School Head (VSH). It is for the VSH to decide whether to provide £2,300 to a school for a child in care or a higher or lower amount. They can also decide on whether to transfer funding termly or annually and can link allocations to the content of the personal education plan (PEP) as agreed with the school.

What are the expectations of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School around the use of PP+?

- Funding should be spent in line with the current Conditions of Grant.
- PP+ spend should be linked clearly to children's targets as identified on their personal education plans, with PEP targets informed by a robust needs analysis.
- The Designated Teacher for children in care should maintain a careful oversight of PP+ allocated to their school and play **an active and direct part in the decision making around how this money should be spent**. This is underpinned by the Statutory Guidance for Designated Teachers 2018 for further details.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children> Some schools have found it helpful to make separate arrangements for PP+ such as allocating it a different cost code and making the Designated Teacher the budget holder who is accountable for it.
- Their annual report to Governors should include an account of what the pupil premium is being used for and the impact on progress, particularly in English and mathematics. This ensures Governors are fully aware of the impact of the pupil premium for this group and are well placed to fulfil their role in respect of looked after children as outlined in the guidance above.
- Interventions supported by Pupil Premium Plus should be evidence-based and in the best interests of the child.
- Pupil premium plus is allocated by the Virtual School Head to schools to support a child's individual needs and should be viewed as such.
- However, in some circumstances there may be a case for pooling this funding with other funding so that a child can access a specific resource which may be too costly to provide on an individual basis. Where a child has indicated that they do not want / are not comfortable with an individually delivered intervention, it may be more appropriate to deliver this in a small group where other children also benefit. There may also be other benefits in terms of opportunities for interaction, development of language and strengthening peer relationships.
- In these circumstances, schools will still need to show how PP+ is benefitting the individual child by providing a detailed breakdown of spend on their PEP. They

will also need to be very clear how the intervention or approach used links directly to their individual identified needs.

Getting the most from Pupil Premium Plus:	
<p>Approaches that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually tailored to the needs and strengths of each pupil • Consistent (based on agreed core principles and components) but also flexible and responsive • Based on evidence of what works • Focussed on clear short-term goals which give opportunities for pupils to experience success • Include regular, high quality feedback from teaching staff • Engage parents/carers in the agreement and evaluation of arrangements for education support (e.g. via the PEP) • Supporting pupil transition (e.g. primary-secondary/KS3-4) • Raising aspirations through access to high-quality educational experiences • Promote the young person’s awareness and understanding of their own thought process (metacognition) and help to develop problem-solving strategies 	<p>Which emphasise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship-building, both with appropriate adults and with peers • An emotionally-intelligent approach to the setting of clear behaviour boundaries • Increasing pupil’s understanding of their own emotions and identity • Positive reinforcement • Building self-esteem • Relevance to the learner: relate to pupil’s interests where possible; make it matter to them • A joined-up approach involving social worker/carer/VSH and other relevant professionals • Strong and visionary leadership on the part of both of the pupil’s head teachers • A child centred approach to assessment for learning
<p><i>Extract from DFE Statutory Guidance 2018 Darren Martindale, Virtual School Head for City of Wolverhampton Council</i></p>	

How can schools ensure that pupil premium plus is used effectively and directly impacts on children’s outcomes?

Designated Teachers of children in care should ensure that an appropriate needs analysis tool is used to help identify children’s individual barriers and needs. This will inform the choice of interventions funded through Pupil Premium Plus and Designated Teachers are then better placed to measure the impact of interventions on children’s progress

A needs analysis tool could include the Hampshire PEP Toolkit (which can be used immediately by a qualified teacher), Boxhall profile or Thrive assessment (available via a Thrive trained practitioner) which can be used alongside a wide range of other data and information such as SDQ (Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire), EP assessment, CAT scores, and progress towards age related expectations (ARE) in

curriculum subjects. This list is not exhaustive and will need to reflect what is appropriate and meaningful for individual children so that any learning gaps or social, emotional, mental and physical needs are identified. Not all needs will be easily identifiable or obvious and children's emotional responses or behaviours may be visible at home rather than in school. The child's carers and social worker will also have valuable contribution to make in informing the needs analysis and subsequent choice of pupil premium funded interventions.

What are the current local arrangements for allocating PP+ for children in the care of Hampshire County Council and the Isle of Wight Council?

The same arrangement is currently in place for both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. £1,600 per child in care is allocated and paid in termly instalments of £600 (summer term), £500 (autumn term) and £500 (spring term). Schools will normally receive the full funding for a term for each pupil who has been in care for at least one day in that term.

£700 per child is held centrally by the Virtual School to deliver a range of services and interventions. These arrangements are subject to review on an annual basis. The Virtual School Head takes a report to Schools Forum each year to provide an overview of how the centrally held portion has been spent, share planning for the following financial year and any changes with the rationale for these.

Under the current arrangements, in order to minimise delay, schools will receive their allocation automatically from Hampshire in May (summer term), October (autumn term) and March (spring term) and towards the end of each term for the Isle of Wight.

Where the Virtual School has concerns around the way the funding is being spent, or there is insufficient detail on the PEP, or a current PEP is missing without good reason, the termly allocation may be delayed or held back.

Does the virtual school head have to give the money to schools?

“There is no requirement to do so. There is, however, a strong expectation that virtual school heads will pass on pupil premium funding to a child's education setting. This is to be used to meet additional needs set out in his or her PEP that can be passed to the school on a termly or annual basis. Any funding not passed down to schools by the end of the financial year will have to be returned to the DfE”
(Source: Pupil premium and the role of the virtual school head 2014-15. Frequently asked questions)

Is there a cut off date for PP+ funding?

No. The current arrangements for both Hampshire and the Island are that funding is distributed on a termly basis and is proportionate to the length of the term. A data run of all current and historic children looked after is collected termly. For children who have been in care for a very short period, the VSH is able to use their discretion to allocate an amount of funding to reflect this.

How can schools find out PP+ arrangements for children in the care of a different LA?

They should contact the Virtual School in the child's home LA; most will have a website containing contact details. If, however, schools encounter any difficulty Janet Cox in the Virtual School team will be able to signpost schools to the relevant LA's VSH (Janet.cox@hants.gov.uk).

What happens if a child moves school? Does the PP+ funding (and any resources which have been bought for a child from PP+ money such as a laptop) follow them?

Transfer of PP+ funding is a matter for discussion between schools and where appropriate, alternative providers. The Virtual School would expect that, when a child moves school there is a discussion about the provision and support being delivered. This should include the ways in which any funding passed to the receiving school or alternative provider will be used to meet a child's needs in accordance with their PEP. Where a school retains any PP+ after a child has left, they will be still be accountable to the LA and to OFSTED for demonstrating the impact of pupil premium spend on improving educational outcomes.

Do children in care qualify for FSM?

Children who are in a funded care placement – i.e. placed with a LA foster carer or an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carer, generally do not qualify for FSM. This is because the carer receives an allowance which covers all meals for each child in their care. Therefore, carers already receive the funding needed to provide meals. This situation may be different for a child who is not in a funded care arrangement. Examples would include a child placed at home but with the LA in receipt of a care order. In such cases, the normal criteria for school meal eligibility will apply.

Can PP+ and other types of pupil premium be accessed for a child in care?

No, pupils will only receive one premium per year. This is the higher amount (PP+ or Post LAC).

What happens in cases where a child is dual rolled at a school and an alternative provider such as an education centre or Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)?

Funding is paid to the school where the pupil is solely registered. In the event of dual registration, funding will go to the main school and the education centre or PRU will need to liaise with the main school to request a transfer of a proportion of the funding. Where an arrangement is long term, it would be possible to request that the money is paid directly to the AP.

Can PP+ be used to pay for the costs of alternative provision?

No, every child, whether or not they are in care, has an entitlement to an education. PP+ should be regarded as additional funding so that further interventions can be

put in place to meet a child's educational needs. These will be identified on their PEP and used to address and close any gaps in progress and attainment.

How can schools access further training and information on effective ways to spend PP?

Further information may be accessed via:

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School's designated teacher training and networks (links below)
- The Learning Zone (Hantsweb)
<https://learningzone.hants.gov.uk/>
- Isle of Wight Council Learning and Development pages
<https://www.iwight.com/trainingcourses/>
- The useful links section included at the end of this document.

Where can additional funding information about children with special educational needs and disabilities be found?

Further information can be accessed from Hampshire's Local Offer web pages

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/localoffer.page>

and the Isle of Wight Local Offer web pages

<https://www.iwight.com/Residents/care-and-Support/Local-Offer/Special-educational-need-support-services/Getting-the-right-support>

Is PP+ allocated to independent special schools?

Pupils attending independent schools where the LA pays the fees are classed by the DfE as attending *alternative provision*. These pupils can qualify for pupil premium funding. Where a school is of the view that the fees paid by the LA sufficiently meet the needs of the child they can ask to return it to the LA (Virtual School) together with written confirmation of their decision. This will need to be done on an annual basis.

How can schools help ensure that pupil premium and DSG payments are made on time?

It is imperative that schools accurately record LAC status on their census. Errors in census returns may result in funding being delayed.

What should a school do if they have not received PP+ funding for a Hampshire or Isle of Wight child in care on their roll?

The school can contact the Hampshire Education Funding Team directly, who will look into why, and make payment if applicable. Contact details are school.fund@hants.gov.uk

For an Isle of Wight child, please contact the Virtual School directly - virtual.school@iow.gov.uk

Schools can also contact the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School if they encounter any difficulties with this or have any additional questions.

Is PP+ available for looked after children in the early years?

The early years pupil premium (EYPP) commenced from April 2015 paying 53p per hour (up to £300 per year) per child in care or child eligible for FSM.

FAQ on EYPP is available from

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childcare/providers/sfyc-cic.htm>

What about post 16?

Pupil premium Plus is not available from the DFE for young people who are looked after.

However, vulnerable student funding is available for young people in care post 16 up to the sum of £1,200 per annum. For higher education (HE), there is a £2,000 bursary which the care leavers service will fund, Young people should talk to their Personal adviser about funding and visit the Local Offer for care leavers web pages. The link for Hampshire may be found below.

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?id=T3SjaCfrefM>

Details for the Isle of Wight are shown below.

<https://www.iwight.com/Council/OtherServices/Looked-After-Children/Care-Leavers-Guidance>

Please also visit the Virtual School website.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/cic-virtual-school/schoolsandotherproviders/vs-post16.htm>

Acronyms used in this document

AP Alternative Provision

CLA Child looked after

DfE Department for Education

DSG Dedicated Schools Grant

EFA Education Funding Agency

EYPP Early Years Pupil Premium

FSM Free School Meals

IFA Independent fostering agency

LA Local Authority

LAC Looked After Child

NoR Number on roll

PEP Personal Education Plan

PP+ Pupil Premium Plus

PRU Pupil referral unit

VSH Virtual School Head

Useful links and references

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-the-funding-successfully>

<https://www.tscouncil.org.uk/resources/guide-to-effective-pupil-premium-review/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-national-funding-formula-allocations-and-guidance#EYPP-looked-after-children>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/586474/SEED-Experiences of the Early Years Pupil Premium - RR645.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/586474/SEED-Experiences_of_the_Early_Years_Pupil_Premium_-_RR645.pdf)

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>

<https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Pupil-Premium-Summit-Report-FINAL-EDIT-1.pdf>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit>

<http://www.pupilpremiumawards.co.uk/ppawards2017/en/page/home>

<https://www.tscouncil.org.uk/resources/guide-to-effective-pupil-premium-review/>

Pupil Premium funding for looked after and previously (post) looked after children 2018-19

