

Statement on Looked After Children Pupil Premium Plus Funding

In April 2014, the Department for Education introduced a dedicated Pupil Premium Plus grant (PP+). The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged and looked after pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers.

Looked After Children Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Eligibility criteria

This grant ensures that schools are able to access up to £2,630 of funding per financial year for each eligible looked after child in their care. In April 2015, PP+ funding was extended to Early Years settings, ensuring that Early Years Providers (including nurseries and childminders) were also able to access additional funding for eligible looked after children under the age of 4.

The conditions of grant, which are revised annually and are published via states as follows;

ESFA will allocate to local authorities in June 2025 a provisional amount of £2,630 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2024 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2023. Where a looked-after pupil has previously been recorded as claiming free school meals this update may have an impact on some schools' allocations as set out above.

[Pupil premium 2025 to 2026: technical note - GOV.UK](#)

Allocation of funding for Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children

Nottinghamshire County Council's Virtual School receives the PP+ grant for our children and is responsible for allocating the funding appropriately upon receipt of a quality plan of proposed expenditure. As part of this role, we require schools/educational settings to submit information via targets and actions in fully completed Personal Education Plans on how this funding is being used to improve the educational outcomes of looked after children.

The PP+ grant is an opportunity for schools/educational settings to address the learning needs of a looked after child through the provision of additional educational interventions and learning resources tailored to the individual child's need. The grant is not intended to replace universal services, support or resources that the Local Authority, schools/settings, providers, carers or other agencies already provide for their Looked After Children.

Where schools are unable to provide sufficient information on how PP+ is being used to support the pupil's educational needs in the Personal Education Plan, the allocation may be withheld until the school's Designated Teacher and the Head of the Virtual School can work together to agree how this funding can most effectively be used to improve the pupil's attainment.

It is not intended that the PP+ is used to fund:

- support set out in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC);
- interventions that have no additional cost, or interventions that are already available for all children as part of the school's universal support for vulnerable learners

- resources which the Local Authority already provides for looked after children through its financial allowances to foster carers or children's homes e.g. clothing, school uniforms and payment for out of school activities/clubs/childcare sessions;
- school uniform, school lunches or basic equipment that the looked after child needs to participate in lessons (e.g. PE kit);

There may be some occasions when a school or educational setting identifies that PP+ funding is required to provide specific activities aimed at improving a child's self-esteem, social skills, extra-curricular experiences. This should be identified as an intervention that is to support the educational development or future aspirations of the individual. In these circumstances, schools/settings must clearly state how these activities relate to a looked after child's attainment and progress as recorded in their Personal Education Plan, along with how these activities will contribute to improved educational outcomes for our looked after children including pre and post outcome evaluation.

When schools run curriculum-based trips e.g. science field trips, history trips, a contribution of up to one third of the PP+ allocation to schools can be made to support attendance.

What works well

Examples of what have been found to work well include:

- Targeted tuition using qualified teachers; this would include measuring the impact of the intervention (pre/post evaluation)
- Relational based support through staff in the school e.g. one to one teaching, small group work, ELSAs
- Identifying barriers to learning and supporting our children to overcome these through whole school/setting relational approach, mentoring and joined up working with other relevant professionals
- Ensuring our children are ready to learn e.g. ensuring transitions, executive functioning is supported
- Support should be evidence based and in the best interests of the child

Allocation of grant to publicly funded schools, independent non-maintained schools and alternative provisions

Amounts will be varying under certain circumstances:

- £700 will be available to the school for children who are eligible from reception to year 11 on a termly basis on completion of a high-quality Personal Education Plan for that term
- Where a child is not eligible for PP+ within the current financial year, but who have subsequently come into care, schools are encouraged to have an individual discussion with the Virtual School to explore support for the pupils' educational outcomes

Pupil Premium+ must be spent on evidence-informed activities in line with the DfE's 'menu of approaches' [Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#) which aligns with Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF's) approach across 3 key areas [The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#):

- Developing high-quality teaching, for example through professional development and recruitment and retention
- Providing targeted curriculum support, such as one-to-one or small group tuition
- Tackling non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing

The Local Authority will retain part of the allocated Looked After PP+ grant which will be used by Nottinghamshire's Virtual School to support and fund additional interventions for those children/young people most at risk of under achievement. For instance, this may include:

- commissioned support from external professionals/partners to deliver high-quality programmes or activities for targeted children in care e.g. short-term intensive educational support, multi-model projects, The Book Trust 'letter box club'
- county-wide training for schools/settings to further develop their attachment aware and trauma informed practices, and to raise the profile of looked after children and what works
- bespoke education, employment and training projects
- one to one tuition where any of our children may be without educational provision due to home move

Virtual School Accountability

Nottinghamshire Virtual School will report to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the expenditure of PP+ via the Virtual School Annual Report. This demonstrates adherence to the statutory guidance for local authorities 'promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked after children', as well as to the Ofsted framework for inspection of children looked after services.

The local authority is not permitted to carry forward funding held centrally into the following financial year. Any remaining funding will be returned to central government.

Looked After Children Pupil Premium Grant for Children and Young People attending Nottinghamshire schools placed by other Local Authorities

Different local authorities will distribute the PP+ in varying ways. The Virtual School responsible for the issue of PP+ to schools and academies with eligible pupils will correspond to the local authority who cares for the child. Schools and academies should contact the Virtual School for the individual local authorities with queries concerning the allocation of PP+. Nottinghamshire Virtual School can provide, if necessary, names of other local authority Virtual School contacts if required.

If you have any questions, please contact Steph McGill, Head of the Virtual School:

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Links:

[Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[Pupil premium 2025 to 2026: technical note - GOV.UK](#)

[Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#)

[Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#)

Nottinghamshire Virtual School training offer: [Training & Events | The East Midlands Education Support Service \(em-edsupport.org.uk\)](#)

EEF information - [Using pupil premium | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

[Putting Evidence to Work - A School's Guide to Implementation | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

Designated Teacher Guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf