

Pupil Premium Questions and Answers

What is the Pupil Premium?

Pupil premium funding is additional money given to schools in England to raise the attainment of eligible pupils and narrow the gap between their attainment and their peers.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Currently looked after children and children in receipt of free school meals attract Pupil Premium funding.

From April 2014, maintained schools (funded by the local education authority), non-maintained special schools (not funded by the local education authority) will attract the Pupil Premium for children:

- that were adopted from care on or after 30 December 2005 (under the Adoption and Children Act 2002);
- that left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005 (under the Children Act 1989);
- that left care under a Residential Order on or after 14 October 1991 (under the Children Act 1989);
- are in Reception to Year 11;
- where the parent self-declares their child's status to the school, providing supporting evidence (e.g. an adoption order); and
- where the school records on the January School Census that it has a child on roll who meets the above criteria.

(Pupils will be referred to as children adopted from care and post-LAC (for SGO/RO) throughout the remainder of this document.)

Why are children adopted from care and those who leave care under a Special Guardianship or Residential Order getting a Pupil Premium?

Adopted children will have experienced loss and many of them will have had traumatic experiences in their early lives; 70% of those adopted in 2009-10 entered care due to abuse or neglect. Their needs do not change overnight and they do not stop being vulnerable just because they are in a loving home. Their experiences in early life can have a lasting impact which can affect the child many years after adoption. Therefore teachers and schools have a vital role to play in helping these children emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs.

How will children adopted from care and post-LAC access the pupil premium?

This is money for schools to use. Parents and guardians of children who have left the care system through adoption, or who are post-LAC, will need to self-

declare their child's status to the school where their child is on roll. Parents and guardians will be required to provide evidence to the school, such as their Adoption Order a letter from the local authority that originally looked after the child. The school can then use that information to record on their School Census how many children on their roll were adopted from care or are post-LAC.

How to present sensitive information when declaring to schools?

Information on an Adoption Court Order is sensitive and includes information you may not want to share with a school. Parents can photocopy the child's Adoption Order and conceal information about birth parents before they present it to schools.

It is crucial that the school can clearly see the child's name (since they were adopted), the date on which they were adopted and the Agency they were originally adopted from.

When is the self-declaration deadline?

In order for schools to receive funding from April 2014 children will need to be recorded as eligible on the School Census by **Thursday 16 January 2014**.

Schools will not necessarily be aware that they have adopted children and post-LAC on roll and so we would encourage parents/guardians to come forward, rather than relying on the school to approach them.

Will parents and guardians need to self-declare again? If so, when?

Parents and guardians will need to self-declare again if their child moves school. Parents and guardians will need to ensure that they self-declare to the new school before the next January School Census to ensure that the school can attract the Pupil Premium funding to which it is entitled.

How much funding will each school receive?

The Pupil Premium is £1900 per eligible child, per year.

How is funding paid?

Funding for those adopted from care, leave care under a special guardianship or residence order will be paid directly to schools.

Why is the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care and post-LAC going to schools?

Children adopted from care and post-LAC are no longer looked after and virtual school heads do not have a role in promoting their achievement. Individual schools are responsible for the educational outcomes of children adopted from care/post-LAC on roll and therefore are best placed to decide

how to use the Pupil Premium to support these pupils. Schools may wish to discuss the measures they are putting in place with the parents and guardians of the pupils concerned.

When will schools receive the Pupil Premium funding?

Schools will receive funding for pupils who are recorded on the January School Census in the following financial year. For example, pupils recorded as adopted or post-LAC on the January 2014 School Census will qualify for premium funding from April 2014 to March 2015 (i.e. 2014-15 financial year).

What school types attract the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care/post-LAC?

Mainstream schools and non-maintained special schools that record these pupils on the January School Census will attract the funding. The Department will contact General Hospital Schools directly and they will attract funding if they have children adopted from care/post-LAC on roll.

Do pupils adopted from care/post-LAC in pre-school or in post-16 education get the Pupil Premium?

No. The Pupil Premium is additional funding for schools and they attract it for eligible pupils between Reception and Year 11.

Do schools have to spend the additional funding they are getting on the individual child adopted from care?

The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools to improve the educational and personal outcomes for pupils who have been adopted from care. It is not intended that the additional funding should be used to back-fill the general school budget nor is it the intention that the funding should be used to support other groups of pupils.

The funding is not ring-fenced and is not for individual children – so the Department would not necessarily expect the school to spend £1900 on every child adopted from care on roll at the school. This is partially because a child may have left the school and new pupils may have joined but also because a school is best placed to determine how the additional funding can be deployed to have the maximum impact. For example, a school may decide to train their staff in recognising and responding to attachment-related issues; or that a particular adopted child needs tailored support that is in excess of the £1900 the school has received. Alternatively, they may decide that a whole class intervention is appropriate and that other pupils that attract the Pupil Premium will benefit from this, alongside other pupils who are not deemed to be disadvantaged.

For advice and guidance on support for eligible children in school contact the Adoption UK helpline between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday on: 0844 848 7900