



Pupil Premium Grant Policy

Accepted by Trustees in: Autumn 2025

Due for next review in: Autumn 2026

Principles

It is our responsibility to ensure that all children in our school achieve their potential and we seek to meet the individual needs of every child. We target Pupil Premium funding to support the learning needs of vulnerable children and strive to narrow the attainment gap between children who are eligible for free school meals and those that are not.

We ensure that appropriate provision is made for vulnerable children. This includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed. We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide background information about the pupil premium grant so that all members of the school community understand its purpose and which pupils are eligible
- Set out how the school will make decisions on pupil premium spending
- Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing the pupil premium in school

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium [allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2025 to 2026](#) and guidance on [using the pupil premium](#), [virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service pupil premium](#) from the Department for Education (DfE).

In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on what academies should publish online and complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Purpose of the grant

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils, or pupils who are looked after or previously looked after and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprises of pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential.

Service pupil premium grant

An additional grant, the service pupil premium grant, is funding to provide pastoral support for pupils who are children of serving and former armed services personnel. Pupils can be eligible for both pupil premium and service pupil premium.

Provision

Our use of the pupil premium and activities align with the DfE's 'menu of approaches'.

1. High Quality Teaching
 - Developing high quality teaching, assessment and a curriculum which responds to the needs of pupils
 - Professional development on evidence-based approaches, for example feedback, metacognition, reading comprehension, phonics, or mastery learning
 - Mentoring and coaching
 - Recruitment and retention of teaching staff
 - Technology and other resources focussed on supporting high quality teaching and learning
2. Targeted Academic Support
 - Interventions to support language development, literacy, and numeracy
 - Activity and resources to meet the specific needs of disadvantaged pupils with SEND
 - Teaching assistant deployment and interventions
 - One to one and small group tuition
 - Peer tutoring
3. Wider Strategies
 - Supporting pupils' social, emotional, and behavioural needs
 - Supporting attendance
 - Extracurricular activities, including sports, outdoor activities, arts, culture and trips
 - Extended school time, including summer schools
 - Breakfast clubs and meal provision
 - Communicating with and supporting parents

We also ensure that;

- All children are offered a broad, balanced, challenging, differentiated curriculum, under constant review, which is designed to offer maximum flexibility to meet the needs of individuals
- Continuing staff development and training to ensure that all staff provide appropriately for each individual child
- A broad and varied extra-curricular programme which offers enriching experiences beyond the school day to all children
- Individual mentoring and support programmes
- Support of a team of Learning Mentors
- Support of our Early Help
- Financial support to ensure that children do not miss educational opportunities due to financial hardship i.e. educational visits, residential visits and after school clubs
- Providing in-school support for children with particular educational needs
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities through trained TAs or external agencies
- Family learning opportunities to raise aspirations of families and children
- Appropriate resources to help extend the learning of vulnerable children
- External agencies working in partnership with school staff to help assess and provide for the learning needs of vulnerable children
- Challenging non-attendance to ensure that all vulnerable children maximise their access to learning opportunities
- Targeted intervention programmes.

We will publish information on the school's use of the pupil premium on the school website in line with the requirements set out in our funding agreement and the DfE's guidance on what academies should publish online.

Information on how the school uses the pupil premium is available here: [Woodside Primary School - Pupil Premium & Recovery Premium \(woodsideschool.co.uk\)](http://www.woodsideschool.co.uk)

Eligible pupils

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils in Reception to Year 6.

Eligible pupils fall into the categories explained below:

[Ever 6 free school meals](#)

Pupils recorded in the most recent October school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance).

This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent October census. This also includes pupils with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The government has permanently extended FSM eligibility to include children in households with NRPF.

It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches.

Looked after children

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales for at least 1 day.

Post-looked after children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census who:

- Were looked after by a local authority or other state care immediately before being adopted, or
- Left local authority or other state care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order

This includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales.

Service children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census:

- With a parent serving in the regular armed forces
- Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last 6 years ('ever 6 service children'), as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance, including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census
- In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence, because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces.

Virtual School Heads

Virtual school heads are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying the eligible looked-after children and informing the local authority
- Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked-after children benefit without delay
- Working with each looked-after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how pupil premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way
- Demonstrating how pupil premium funding is raising the achievement of looked-after children

Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

Pupil Premium +

Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) is a Grant made by the Department of Education to raise the attainment of Looked-After and Previously Looked-After children and close the gap with their peers. Pupil Premium Plus for Looked-After Children is allocated to Virtual Schools and the aim of the grant is to support them towards achieving their full potential, developing their aspirations and goals.

Children who are Looked-After are eligible for PP+ if they have been in care for at least one day and are in year groups from Reception up to the end of Year 11. The Virtual School Head (VSH) in the Authority that looks after those children is responsible for

- allocating the Grant effectively to schools and settings

- working with schools and settings to agree how the PP+ will be spent for Looked-After children as identified in their Personal Education Plan, ensuring it is used on well-evidenced interventions to diminish the difference and realise the potential of their children, irrespective of where they live or attend school.
- being able to demonstrate how the effective use of PP+ is raising the achievement of looked after children.

Children who attend a Shropshire school but are Looked-After by another Local Authority are supported by the Virtual School in that Local Authority where they came into care i.e., their 'home' Authority – and each Virtual School sets out their own PP+ Policy.

To ensure effective use of the PP+ Grant the Virtual School Headteacher can decide to retain some (or all) of the PP+ Grant that they receive. Funding that is not distributed to schools must not be used to duplicate other Local Authority funding (e.g., transport, uniform) but can be used to fund activities that will benefit a group or all of the Authority's Looked-After Children for example. The Virtual School Headteacher is required to produce an Annual Report that outlines how PP+ has been used and to what impact on their Looked-After children's achievements. The OFSTED Framework for inspecting Local Authority Children's Services requires inspectors to ask for this Annual Report.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher, Associate Headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up to date, and ensuring that it is implemented across the school
- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium and catch-up spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of all pupils in relation to catch-up interventions
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium and catch-up spending to the Trustee Board on an ongoing basis
- Maintained schools: Publishing the school's pupil premium strategy on the school website each academic year, as required by the DfE
- Academies, including free schools: Publishing information on the school's use of the pupil premium on the school website, as required by our funding agreement and in line with guidance from the DfE
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment

The Trustee Board is responsible for:

- Holding the Headteacher and Associate Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Ensuring the school is using pupil premium and catch-up funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the Headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium and catch-up funding
- Challenging the Headteacher and Associate Headteacher to use the pupil premium catch-up funding in the most effective way
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium
- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff

Reporting

Our Headteacher/Associate Headteacher reports termly to:

- the Full Trustee Board
- the trustees' Curriculum and Standards Committee
- the trustees' Safeguarding Committee re- the progress being made towards narrowing the gap by year group for socially disadvantaged pupils
- our trustees ensure that there is an annual statement to parents/carers on how the pupil premium funding has been used to address the issue of narrowing the gap for socially disadvantaged pupils
This information is available on our school website.

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the Headteacher and Associate Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be shared with the Full Trustee Board.

Appeals

Any appeals against this policy will be through the school complaints procedure.