

The irtual School

Children in Care Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Guidelines 2018 - 2019

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1. Introduction

The guidelines for Pupil Premium for Children in Care have been informed by two key Department for Education (DfE) documents:

- DfE Pupil premium 2018 to 2019: conditions of grant
- Pupil Premium: Virtual School Heads' Responsibilities

Throughout these guidelines, the Pupil Premium for CiC will be referred to as Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) to distinguish it from other forms of Pupil Premium allocations.

The changes are as follows:

- ✓ From 1 April 2018 PP+ funding to support children and young people in care at school increased by £400 per pupil to make the notional figure £2,300 per child.
- ✓ Children and young people are eligible to receive PP+ from the first day that they enter care
- ✓ The overall grant allocated to each LA is calculated on a per capita basis. This is based on the census of the previous year. However, it does not have to be distributed on a per capita 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 Headteacher and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap” as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP) in consultation with the Designated Teacher and Social Worker.
- ✓ As a result, PEPs are monitored even more closely by Designated Teachers, the Virtual School team, Social Workers and Independent Reviewing Officers.

As a result of the above changes, the allocation of PP+ is now a completely “needs driven model”, managed through high quality PEPs

2. Pupil Premium Plus Guidelines

Overall principles underpinning the new needs driven model

- ✓ The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for the use of PP+ to improve outcomes for all children in the care of Gloucestershire County Council, wherever they live
- ✓ The funding will be provided according to the needs of the child and there is no set amount. In Gloucestershire, from 1st April 2018, there is a completely needs driven model for allocating PP+.
 - At the time at which they first come into care the allocation of PP+ will be on a needs driven basis as agreed at the PEP meeting.
 - In the case of a child who leaves the care system and then returns within the same financial year the allocation of PP+ will be on a needs driven basis as agreed at the PEP meeting.
- ✓ None of the grant will be used to pay for Virtual School management or administration
- ✓ The impact of these PP+ interventions will be reviewed by Virtual School Headteacher.
- ✓ Gloucestershire County Council and the Virtual School Headteacher are corporate parents, so the question ***'would this be good enough for my child?'*** is a central one in making decisions and evaluating the effectiveness of the use of PP+.

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

- ✓ Children's needs vary and can 'spike'
- ✓ For some children £2300 is only a fraction of the cost of the support they need e.g.:
 - Children who come into care in an emergency with a fragmented home and education history and who are behind academically
 - Children who have to move into or out of county in an emergency
 - Children placed out of county in other LAs where the level of support from Virtual School Teams may not be the same and who therefore will lose out without additional help

- Children where there is a significant and often delayed reaction to abuse and neglect, which manifests in hard to anticipate behavioural 'spikes'

In view of this, there may be a significant difference in the amount of PP+ distributed.

Proposals to pool PP+ in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to the needs of children in care, via the PEP are allowed.

A timetable of key dates will be published by Virtual School Headteacher in order to help Designated Teachers plan the strategic use of pooled funding.

This will be subject to review on an annual basis.

The impact of these PP+ interventions will be reviewed by Virtual School Headteacher.

Circumstances in which Pupil Premium Plus will not be provided

- ✓ PP+ will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already have been allocated to the school to support the child and specifically to fund services that should be provided via an EHCP or other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health
- ✓ The interventions put in place do not require any funding
- ✓ The school's own funding covers the cost of the school based interventions
- ✓ The PEP action plan is not explicit about the learning outcomes to which PP+ may contribute

3. Management and accountability

The Headteacher of the Virtual School will be accountable to the Corporate Parenting Group for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process and ensuring maximised impact of the grant.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

- ✓ The PP+ can only be provided to meet the needs identified in a high quality plan in the PEP with clear quantitative and qualitative targets for

improvement, underpinned by well-targeted support. The PEP action plan must show the baseline data, target for improvement, expected outcomes and cost of support.

- ✓ The PP+ must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:
 - **Learning**
 - **Social Mental Emotional Health**
 - **Attendance**

National best practice recommends that PEPs should be updated termly i.e. 3 times per academic year.

Please note that PEP meetings can be held whenever there is a change of educational need, including a young person who may be missing from education.

The PEP can also be updated at the same time as IEP, PSP or EHCP reviews.

Allocation of funding to Schools and recoupment policy 2018 - 2019

- ✓ PP+ will be based on a fully costed high quality PEP Action Plan.
- ✓ A timetable of strategic dates for the completion of PEPs will be published by Virtual School Headteacher at the start of the 2018 financial year in order that schools can pro actively plan PEP meetings.
- ✓ Virtual School may recoup the funding
 - If there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the Child in Care's needs
 - If a child moves education placement in order to transfer the money to the new placement

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 CiC, the size of Virtual School team and the existing operational budget for the Virtual School team (both vary enormously between LAs)

- ✓ Gloucestershire schools who have Children and Young People in Care from other Local Authorities on their roll must contact the Headteacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their Pupil Premium Plus policy, as nationally, all Headteachers of Virtual schools are responsible for the allocation of Pupil Premium Plus for all school aged Children and Young
- ✓ People in the care of their authorities, even though the child/young person is educated in a Gloucestershire school. The name and contact details of other Virtual School Headteachers can be requested from virtualschooladmin@gloucestershire.gov.uk

5. Previously Looked After Children

For previously looked-after children, PP+ funding is managed by the child's school. The amount a school receives is based on the number of eligible children recorded in the school's annual January School Census return to the Department for Education.

For both looked after and previously looked after children PP+ is not a personal budget for individual children. The VSH and school manage their PP+ allocation for the benefit of their cohort of looked-after or previously looked-after children and according to children's needs.