

Guidance about Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care. (Reception to Year 11, statutory school age)

The  Virtual School

What is a Virtual school?

The Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) is a role which each Local Authority in England must have to monitor the education of Children in Care. The VSH monitors that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of the authority's Children in Care, including those placed outside the home authority's boundaries.

The Virtual School in Gloucestershire is a small team of education professionals who attend Children in Care's Personal Education Plans (PEP) where possible. The PEP is a meeting called by the social worker with the school and relevant parties to discuss the child's progress. If requests for Pupil Premium Plus are made for reception to year 11 students, (to improve learning outcomes) this will be recorded in the PEP and the VSH will consider the target and proposed funding request. The schools Designated Teacher writes the PEP and sends this to the Virtual School.

What is Pupil Premium Plus?

This is a Department for Education grant which is available to support Children in Care to achieve improved educational outcomes. The website link is below - it states the purpose of the funding is to raise 'the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2020-to-2021/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2020-to-2021#looked-after-children-lac>

- Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding to support children and young people in care achieve their potential at school is the notional figure £2,345 per child per financial year.
- The grant is to support the Personal Education Plan, which is to promote a child's education and the outcomes they achieve.
- The Personal Education Plan (PEP) is part of the child's statutory care plan and each child in care should have a PEP three times a year.

Who is involved with the decision making about the spending of Pupil Premium plus?

- The grant is allocated 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.
- The Designated teacher is therefore key in this process as school will identify any gaps that the child may have with learning.

Why do Children in Care Pupil Premium Plus allowances vary?

- The allocation of Pupil Premium Plus is a completely “needs driven model”, managed through high quality PEPs. The funding is to raise a child’s achievement and attainment.
- Each child’s PEP is bespoke to meet their needs and the cost of the interventions to support them will vary too.
- Once the PEP has been quality assured and funding agreed the money is released to the child’s school. This will allow the school to ensure the agreed interventions take place and the child’s education is supported.

Target Setting and interventions

- In the SMART TARGET setting section of the PEP document Pupil Premium Plus can be requested to improve educational outcomes.
- All proposed spends from Pupil Premium Plus must have an impact and the review is to check that there is progress being made by the child in the target area to improve education. If there is not effective progress from the intervention identified, then the funding may cease and other interventions will need to be considered.