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Guidance Recovery premium funding

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Purpose

In February 2021, the government announced a one-off recovery premium as part of its package of funding to support education recovery.

The recovery premium provides additional funding for state-funded schools in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Building on the [pupil premium](#), this funding will help schools to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting disadvantaged pupils.

Eligibility

All schools that are eligible for pupil premium are eligible for recovery premium. This includes the following types of schools:

- mainstream primary, secondary and all through local authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools serving children aged 4 to 15
- local authority-maintained special schools
- special academies and free schools
- non-maintained special schools
- pupil referral units
- alternative provision (AP) academies and free schools
- local authority-maintained hospital schools and academies

We will provide funding to local authorities for eligible pupils they have placed in independent special schools, where the local authority pays full tuition fees, as recorded on their January 2021 alternative provision census.

Pupil eligibility

The recovery premium will be allocated using the same data as the pupil premium. This means the following pupils will attract recovery premium funding to schools:

- pupils who are eligible for free schools meals (FSM)
- pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years
- children looked after by local authorities and referred to as looked-after children (LAC)
- post-looked after children (post-LAC)

Funding

Funding allocations

School allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis.

Mainstream schools will get:

- £145 for each eligible pupil in mainstream education
- £290 for each eligible pupil in a special unit

Other types of eligible schools will get £290 for each eligible pupil.

We have applied additional weighting to specialist provision recognising the significantly higher per pupil costs they face.

We have included a minimum payment that we refer to as a 'floor' to ensure that:

- an eligible primary school will not receive less than £2,000
- an eligible secondary school will not receive less than £6,000

As with pupil premium, the funding for looked-after children will be paid to the local authority and should be managed by the [virtual school head](#).

School allocations and the conditions of grant will be published ahead of the first payment in September.

Payment schedule

The recovery premium will be paid in 4 payments to schools during the 2021 to 2022 academic year on the following schedule.

Maintained schools payment schedule

Payments will be sent to local authorities on the last working day of each month in:

- September 2021
- December 2021
- April 2022
- June 2022

Academies payment schedule

Payments will be made on the first working day of each month in:

- October 2021
- January 2022
- May 2022
- July 2022

Using recovery premium funding

Schools should spend this premium on evidence-based approaches to supporting pupils. In line with the [Education Endowment Foundation's pupil premium guide](#), activities should include those that:

- support the quality of teaching, such as staff professional development
- provide targeted academic support, such as tutoring
- deal with non-academic barriers to success in school, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support

Like the pupil premium, schools can:

- spend the recovery premium on a wider cohort of pupils than those who attract the funding
- direct recovery premium spending where they think the need is greatest

For further guidance on effective use of pupil premium, and recovery premium funding, read our guidance on [using pupil premium](#).

As with pupil premium, funding for looked-after children should be managed by the local authority virtual school head. They should work with schools, including the designated teacher, to decide how to use the funding effectively to support looked after children.

Reporting and accountability

Schools must show how they are using their recovery premium effectively:

- by reporting on their use of recovery premium as part of their [pupil premium strategy statement](#)
- through [inspections by Ofsted](#) - as part of these inspections, inspectors may discuss plans schools have to spend their recovery premium funding

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