



School funding: Pupil Premium

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The Government introduced the Pupil Premium in 2011 to provide additional school funding for those children classed as having deprived background, and also those who have been looked after (by a local authority) for more than six months. The Service Premium was also introduced for children whose parent(s) are, or have since 2011, served in the armed forces.

Since their introduction, changes have been made to the eligibility criteria and the funding levels of the Pupil Premiums. The Pupil Premium has increased from the £430 per pupil in 2011–12, to £1,300 per primary pupil or £935 per secondary pupil in 2013–14 (planned figures) – for 2014/15, the Government introduced different Pupil Premiums for primary and secondary pupils. While eligible Looked After Children previously attracted the same Pupil Premium as deprived children, in 2014-15 the “Pupil Premium Plus” was introduced meaning that current or certain former Looked After Children will have £1,900 of funding each.

This note sets out the original formulation of the policy, and how it has developed over time, as well as technical information on how the Premiums are paid to local authorities and passed onto schools, and the arrangements for monitoring how schools are using the Premiums they receive.

This note is one in a series of Library Standard Notes on school funding, see also:

- [School funding: annual settlements under the Coalition Government](#) (SN/SP/6701)
- [School funding: moving towards a national funding formula](#) (SN/SP/6702)
- [School funding: 2006–2010 policy changes under the Labour Government](#) (SN/SP/6703)

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1 Pupil Premium

1.1 Policy development

The May 2010 *Programme for Government* stated: “we will fund a significant premium for disadvantaged pupils from outside the schools budget by reductions in spending elsewhere”.¹

Further detail was provided in the [Consultation on school funding 2011-12 – Introducing a pupil premium](#) published in July 2010:

One of the Government’s key priorities is to introduce a pupil premium to support disadvantaged pupils, who continue to underachieve compared with their peers. Funding for the premium, which will be introduced in September 2011, will come from outside the schools budget to support disadvantaged pupils from Reception to Year 11. Schools will decide how best to use the premium to support the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

The intention is to allocate the funding by means of a separate specific grant and not through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The size of the premium will vary between areas to reflect current differences in funding, ensuring that more money is available for currently lower funded authorities. Over time, this will mean that the same amount of funding will be available for deprived children no matter where they are. We are seeking views on the indicator to determine which pupils should attract the premium.

Looked After Children (LAC), who generally have poor attainment, will be covered by the pupil premium using a separate process since deprivation indicators do not generally include them.

We will explore the scope for extending the pupil premium to include Service children.²

The consultation document set out a number of questions on the proposals, including the proposed measure of deprivation and the issue of Looked After Children.³

1.2 Policy announcement, funding and flat-rate Pupil Premium

The consultation closed on 18 October 2010, and two days later in his statement on the 2010 Spending Review, the Chancellor, George Osborne, told the House:

We will also introduce a new £2.5 billion pupil premium, which supports the education of disadvantaged children and will provide a real incentive for good schools to take pupils from poorer backgrounds. That pupil premium is at the heart of the coalition agreement, and at the heart of our commitment to reform, fairness and economic growth.⁴

The Government issued its response to the consultation on 13 December 2010, and noted that “over 700 responses to the consultation were received and these responses have been considered by the Government in reaching its decisions”.⁵ In terms of funding, the Department for Education (DfE) stated “total funding for the premium will be £625m in 2011-12 and will be built up over time amounting to £2.5bn a year by 2014-15”.⁶

¹ Cabinet Office, [The Coalition: our programme for government](#), May 2010, p28

² Department for Education, [Consultation on school funding 2011-12 – Introducing a pupil premium](#), July 2010, p4

³ As above, p22

⁴ [HC Deb 20 October 2010 c964](#)

⁵ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, p3, para 2

⁶ As above, p3, para 4

2 Summary of the policy since implementation

In terms of how the policy has developed since its introduction in 2011–12, the table below highlights the key points:

Group	Year	Qualifying indicator	Planned funding [†] (per pupil)
Deprived children	2011–12	Currently in receipt of free school meals	£430
	2012–13	Extended to children who had been in receipt of free schools meals at any point in the past six years	£600
	2013–14	As in 2012–13	£900*
	2014–15	As in 2012–13	
		Primary	£1,300
		Secondary	£935
Looked After Children	2011–12	Currently looked after by a local authority and has been for more than six months	£430
	2012–13	As in 2011–12	£600
	2013–14	As in 2011–12	£900
	2014–15	Looked after for one day or more, and including children who have been adopted from care or leave care under a special guardianship or residence order – now referred to as “Pupil Premium Plus”	£1,900
Service children	2011–12	Children whose parents are currently in the armed forces	£200
	2012–13	As in 2011–12	£250
	2013–14	Extended to children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whose parents have died in service and are in receipt of pensions under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme & the War Pensions Scheme; • otherwise ineligible in 2013–14 but who had been eligible in 2012–13 or 2011–12. 	£300
	2014–15	Extended to children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who were eligible previously but whose parents are no longer in the armed forces or are divorced. 	£300

The table overleaf shows the Pupil Premium budget up to 2014-15 and the allocations by element up to 2012-13. The 2013 Spending Round announced that the total Pupil Premium budget will be protected in real terms in 2015-16.

Pupil premium budgets and allocations, £ million

	Budget	Final allocations by element			Total
		Deprivation	Service Children	Looked After Children	
2011-12	625	594	9	20	623
2012-13 ^a	1,250	1,141	13	26	1,200
2013-14	1,750
2014-15	2,500
2015-16	"Protected in real terms"				

(a) Up to £50 million will be used to fund summer schools for disadvantaged pupils

Sources: *Pupil premium 2012-13, and earlier, DfE*
Spending Round 2013, HM Treasury

2.1 Effectiveness of the Pupil Premium

In July 2014, Ofsted published an [update](#) on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for eligible pupils. The report stated that:

There are encouraging signs from inspection that the concerted efforts of good leaders and teachers are helping to increase outcomes for pupils eligible for the pupil premium. However, it will take time to establish whether this increased focus will lead to a narrowing in the attainment gap between those eligible for the pupil premium and other pupils.

In 151 reports analysed between January and December 2013, there was an association noted between the overall effectiveness of the school and the impact of the pupil premium.⁷

A PQ response from the schools Minister, David Laws, set out some further information:

24. Mrs Glendon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress her Department has made on closing the attainment gap between pupils receiving free school meals and others; and if she will make a statement. [904972]

Mr Laws: The gap between free school meals (FSM) pupils and others achieving Level 4 or above in key stage 2 reading and mathematics has narrowed from 19.3 to 16.2 percentage points between 2011 and 2013. The gap in FSM pupils and others achieving at least five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics has narrowed from 27.4 to 26.7 percentage points over the same period.

The most recent Ofsted assessment is that school leaders are spending the pupil premium more effectively than at any time since the funding was introduced in 2011. Of 151 schools in the assessment, the attainment gap between free school meal pupils and their peers was closing, sometimes quite quickly, in all 86 schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. Gaps are also closing, albeit more slowly, in two thirds of the 50 sampled schools rated 'requires improvement'.⁸

⁷ Ofsted, *The Pupil Premium: an update*, July 2014, p4

⁸ [HC Deb 21 July 2014 c918-919W](#)

3 Pupil Premium

3.1 2011–12

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, made a written statement to the House announcing the details of the Pupil Premium, including that the amount per eligible pupil would be £430 in 2011-12.⁹ The grant would be introduced in April 2011, but the DfE intended to keep the methodology under review from 2012.¹⁰ The DfE gave the following rationale for a flat-rate Pupil Premium:

- The key objective is to introduce the premium effectively in its first year of operation. It believes that this can best be achieved by having a flat rate premium;
- A single level of premium applied nationally for all deprived pupils is clear and transparent which is consistent with the Government's aims for school funding more generally. All schools across the country will know what they will be getting for their deprived pupils;
- Keeping the premium simple and straightforward should help schools as they start to develop policies on how best to use the premium to boosting the attainment of deprived pupils.¹¹

On 12 October 2011, the DfE announced that the Pupil Premium would be increased to £488 in 2011-12 for pupils in receipt of free school means and Looked After Children. This was because the number of children registered as eligible for free school meals in January 2011 was fewer than expected.¹²

Mr Gove noted that two types of pupil would benefit:

- those pupils from “deprived backgrounds”;
- children looked after (for more than six months).

Choice of deprivation indicator (free school meals)

The deprivation indicator for 2011-12 for determining the allocation of Pupil Premium would be eligibility for free school meals (FSM), based on census figures taken in January 2011; Mr Gove stated “we have chosen this indicator because it directly targets pupils and because the link between FSM eligibility and low attainment is strong. However, we aim from 2012-13 to extend the reach of the premium to those who have previously been on free school meals”.¹³

The DfE put forward the following argument in support of using FSM as the indicator:

The link between free school meal eligibility, both current and recent, and underachievement is very strong. There is overwhelming evidence that pupils eligible for free school meals generally have lower educational outcomes than their non-deprived peers. Therefore targeting funding at pupils eligible for free school meals should correctly give additional funds to schools which need the most help to raise

⁹ [HC Deb 13 December 2010 c70WS](#)

¹⁰ Department for Education, *The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant*, 13 December 2010, p7, para 17

¹¹ As above, p7, para 16

¹² [Schools to get even more Pupil Premium cash this year](#), DfE press notice 12 October 2011.

¹³ [HC Deb 13 December 2010 c70WS](#)

attainment. Whilst there is also a strong link between the other deprivation indicators and underachievement, we consider that the ability to identify individual pupils is very important. Since schools submit their census returns they will know which of their pupils are eligible. This is not the case for the other deprivation indicators.¹⁴

Limiting applicability for Looked After Children

For children looked after by a local authority, the DfE explained that the Pupil Premium would be payable in respect of only those children who had been looked after for more than six months because “the Government has decided that priority should be given to those in care for longer periods”; it added that “over a third of children are looked after for less than six months”.¹⁵

In summary, Looked After Children are defined as those under 18 and who have been provided with care or accommodation by the children’s services department of a local authority.¹⁶

The DfE has published a breakdown of all elements of the Pupil Premium by Parliamentary Constituency, local authority and region. The deprivation element is also broken down by school. These figures can be downloaded from the Department’s [Pupil Premium 2011-12](#) pages.

3.2 2012–13

Funding

For 2012–13, the size of the “pot” available to fund the Pupil Premium was doubled to £1.25 billion, and the Government re-stated that it would “further rise to £2.5 billion by 2014-15”. Of the £1.25 billion, the DfE stated that “up to £50 million ... will be used to support a summer school programme to help the most disadvantaged pupils make the transition from primary to secondary school”.¹⁷

Final allocations of the Pupil Premium in 2012-13 are available on the DfE’s [School Funding Settlement 2012-13](#) pages.

Deprivation indicator – Broadening eligibility to those who had received FSM in the past six years

The DfE implemented its proposal to broaden the eligibility for the Pupil Premium, by including those who had received FSM at any point in the last six years. In the July 2011 paper, [Consultation on school funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system](#), the DfE acknowledged that the deprivation indicator used for the first year of the Premium, namely children currently receiving free school meals, was “generally considered to under-report the

¹⁴ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, p6, para 12

¹⁵ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, p9, para 25

¹⁶ Section 22 of the *Children Act* 1989 provides the definition of a child looked after by a local authority, namely either (a) in the care of the local authority pursuant to a care order or interim care order, or (b) a child is provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social service functions (except accommodation provided under sections 17 (services for children in need), 23B (support for children not being looked after) or 24B (accommodation for qualifying higher or further education students)).

¹⁷ [HC Deb 12 December 2011 c63WS](#)

actual level of deprivation as not all parents with eligible children register them for free school meals and the proportion of eligible pupils claiming drops the older pupils get".¹⁸

The DfE therefore proposed:

offering two options for extending the coverage of the premium. We believe it is right to retain a pupil based deprivation indicator to determine eligibility for the premium, so that it can continue to reflect the characteristics of the individual pupil. FSM is the only such indicator currently available. The options to extend the premium are:

- a) To include pupils eligible for FSM in one of the last three years (known as "Ever 3"); or
- b) To include pupils eligible for FSM in one of the last six years (known as "Ever 6").¹⁹

Announcing the decision to use the "Ever 6" indicator in 2012–13, the then Minister for Children and Families, Sarah Teather, told the House in December 2011: "as a group, children who have been eligible for FSM at any point in time have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible for FSM". This meant that the Pupil Premium would be extended to an additional 500,000 pupils.²⁰

Eligibility criteria and the Universal Credit

The DfE has acknowledged that the eligibility criteria would have to be reconsidered because of the pending introduction of Universal Credit:

The Department for Work and Pensions plan to phase in Universal Credit between October 2013 and 2017, replacing many current in-work and out-of-work benefits with a single payment. This means that the majority of the current criteria for determining entitlement for FSM will no longer exist. We are currently considering proposals for new eligibility criteria which can be aligned with Universal Credit.²¹

Further information was provided in the Department for Work and Pension's response to the report by the Social Security Advisory Committee, *Universal Credit: the impact on passported benefits*:

51. As well as being an important benefit in its own right, free school meal eligibility is also used as a proxy indicator of deprivation, for example in allocating the Pupil Premium to schools and in school performance tables and other research. The Government wants to ensure that the eligibility criteria under Universal Credit can continue to be used in this way in England.

[...]

54. The provision of free school meals to all recipients of Universal Credit would almost treble the numbers currently eligible. Although the Government is sympathetic to the arguments for extending eligibility to free school meals, this is simply unaffordable in the current economic climate. In England, the Department for Education is, therefore, likely to propose defining eligibility in relation to a fixed income threshold assessed

¹⁸ Department for Education, *Consultation on school funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system*, July 2011, p47, para 8.3

¹⁹ As above, p47, para 8.8

²⁰ [HC Deb 12 December 2011 cc63WS–64WS](#)

²¹ Department for Education, *School funding reform: Next steps towards a fairer system*, March 2012, p32, para 2.4.4

within Universal Credit and will be consulting on new eligibility criteria later this year. The focus of the consultation will be on setting criteria which can be put in place for the change to Universal Credit from October 2013.

55. [...] Whilst the focus of the Department's consultation is in relation to the approach for free school meals from 2013, it will also seek comments on the longer term strategy. The Department for Education has not decided whether free school meals would be included in any future generic approach to passported benefits. Any model used will need to ensure there is a positive impact on the take up of free school meals and would need to ensure school's could identify children who attract the Pupil Premium.²²

The eligibility criteria for Looked After Children was unchanged for the 2012–13 funding round.²³

3.3 2013–14

For 2013–14, the criteria for the Pupil Premium remained unchanged, although the funding was increased to £1.875 billion. As a result, the deprivation and Looked After Children elements of Pupil Premium increased to £900 per pupil. Illustrative allocations by local authority, constituency and school have been published on the [Schools Funding Settlement 2013-14](#) pages of the DfE website. These use the higher rates for 2013-14 and January 2012 pupil numbers, so final allocations, based on January 2013 pupil numbers, will be different. These are likely to be published later in 2013.

In December 2013, the Schools Minister, David Laws, announced that, following receipt of the final figures for the number of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium, “we are able to provide primary schools with an extra £53 ... on the top of the £900 ... to the end of the financial year for every primary pupil who is currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) or has been eligible for FSM in the past six years (FSM ‘Ever 6’)”. The Pupil Premium for secondary school pupils was unchanged from £900, however.²⁴

3.4 2014–15

The size of the Pupil Premium funding pot was increased to £2.5 billion, so reaching the amount that the DfE planned for in its [December 2010 paper](#). However, for the first time the planned amounts of Pupil Premium differed depending on whether a child was in primary or secondary school, and whether they received the Pupil Premium based on the deprivation indicator or because they were a Looked After Child. The Pupil Premium amounts set out in the December 2013 statement by the Schools Minister were:

- £1,300 for deprived primary school pupils
- £935 for deprived secondary school pupils
- £1,900 for Looked After Children (“Pupil Premium Plus”).

In addition, the eligibility criteria for Looked After Children was broadened.

²² Department for Work and Pensions, Universal Credit: the impact on passported benefits – Report by the Social Security Advisory Committee and response by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Cm 8332, March 2012, pp10–11

²³ [HC Deb 12 December 2011 c64WS](#)

²⁴ [HC Deb 12 December 2013 c50WS](#)

Pupil Premium – differential rates for primary and secondary deprived pupils

For 2014/15, different rates of Pupil Premium will be paid to children from deprived backgrounds, defined as a child who has been entitled to FSM at any point in the past six years (i.e. “FSM ‘Ever 6’”). Whereas in 2013/14 it was planned that the Pupil Premium would be £900 for all FSM “Ever 6”, in 2014/15 the Government stated that eligible primary school pupils would have a Pupil Premium of £1,300 – a year-on-year increase of 44% – while the figure for secondary school pupils would be £935, a rise of 4%.

The decision to pay a higher Pupil Premium for eligible primary school pupils was first announced in July 2013 by the Schools Minister:

We will use the extra [Pupil Premium] funding in the year ahead to increase significantly the level of the pupil premium for primary schools to £1,300 per pupil, compared with £900 in the current year. This 44% rise in the pupil premium next year is the largest cash rise so far. That should enable more targeted interventions to support disadvantaged pupils to be secondary ready and achieve our ambitious expectations for what pupils should know and be able to do by the end of their primary education. Early intervention is crucial: the more disadvantaged pupils who leave primary school with strong literacy and numeracy, the greater their chances of achieving good GCSEs. We will fix the level of the secondary pupil premium in the autumn, but it will rise further, by at least the level of inflation next year.²⁵

In his December 2013, the Schools Minister reiterated this message, saying that DfE would “increase substantially” the funding per pupil for primary school pupils, thereby “allowing schools to intervene early, where the impact is greatest”.²⁶

Looked After Children – the introduction of “Pupil Premium Plus” and a broadening of the eligibility criteria

Prior to Mr Laws’ statement on 12 December 2013, on 1 October 2013 the Children’s Minister, Edward Timpson, announced that from 2014/15 for Looked After Children:

- a specific “Pupil Premium Plus” would be introduced, thereby breaking the link between the pupil premium for children from deprived backgrounds and Looked After Children. For 2014/15, the rate of pupil premium for Looked After Children would rise to £1,900 from £900 in 2013/14;
- Looked After Children would be eligible for the Pupil Premium Plus from the first day they were in care, rather than after being in care for six months;
- children adopted from care and those who leave care under a special guardianship order or residence order would also be eligible for the the Pupil Premium Plus.²⁷

The measures were confirmed in the December 2013 statement, and the Schools Minister told the House: “Schools will receive £1,900 for each eligible pupil adopted from care who has been registered on the school census and the additional funding will enable schools to offer pastoral care as well as raising pupil attainment”.²⁸

²⁵ [HC Deb 17 July 2013 c1100](#)

²⁶ [HC Deb 12 December 2013 c50WS](#)

²⁷ GOV.UK, [£100 million to support the education of children in care](#), press release, 1 October 2013

²⁸ [HC Deb 12 December 2013 c51WS](#)

3.5 The requirement to register for free school meals to be eligible

The Pupil Premium is only paid to those children registered to claim free school meals, and does not include those who are eligible but are not registered; the term used by the DfE is “known to be eligible for Free School Meals”.²⁹

In the Department for Education’s [Consultation on school funding 2011-12 – Introducing a Pupil Premium](#), while the Government stated that “allocating funding on the basis of FSM eligibility, as recorded on the pupil-level annual school census, has the very substantial benefit that it reflects the specific characteristics of the individual pupil. It is easily collected and is updated annually”,³⁰ it acknowledged that the “main issues” with the FSM indicator included that it reflected “registered eligibility for free meals rather than actual eligibility”.³¹

The DfE has compared data on benefit receipt and FSM figures and estimated that nationally around 200,000 children aged 4-15 ‘appear to be entitled’ but are not claiming FSM. This implies that around 14% of pupils entitled to FSM are not claiming them. This rate was highest for those at either end of this age range with 21% of 4 year olds and 22% of 15 year olds. It was also higher in less deprived areas; 23% in the South East and Eastern regions and more than 30% in some local authorities.³²

Recent DfE guidance stated that “local authorities should remind schools that their Pupil Premium allocation each year is determined by the number of FSM pupils they have on roll on January census day”.³³

If registered, the child does not have to actually receive FSM for the Pupil Premium to be paid; simply being registered is sufficient. The DfE issued a template letter for local authorities to use in order to parents to encourage FSM registration, which stated “if you don’t want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £600 extra [i.e. the Pupil Premium]”.³⁴

²⁹ Email to the Library from DfE official, 4 May 2012

³⁰ Department for Education, [Consultation on school funding 2011-12 – Introducing a Pupil Premium](#), p11, para 33

³¹ As above, p12, para 35

³² Department of Education, [Pupils not claiming free school meals](#), Research Report DFE-RR 235, p1

³³ Department for Education, [Increasing registrations for FSM and the Pupil Premium: Information for local authorities](#), webpage [taken on 4 May 2012]

³⁴ Department for Education, [Example letter to parents](#), webpage [taken on 4 May 2012]

4 Service Premium

4.1 2011–12

In addition to the Pupil Premium, Mr Gove also announced a Service Premium of £200 for the children of armed forces personnel for 2011–12, adding “we expect the focus of expenditure from the premium to be on pastoral support”. The Prime Minister had previously announced the policy to the House on 8 December 2010.³⁵

The Service Premium could, in theory, be paid in addition to the Pupil Premium for those pupils from “deprived backgrounds” or who are Looked After Children for more than six months. However, in practice the DfE expects that only in limited circumstances would the children of service personnel be eligible for both Premiums.

4.2 2012–13

For 2012–13, it was announced that the Service Premium would increase to £250, compared to £600 for qualifying children from deprived backgrounds and Looked After Children.³⁶ The DfE explained the difference as follows:

Our priority for the Pupil Premium is about raising the attainment for deprived pupils. Service children don’t as a group underachieve but we provided additional funding through the Service premium in recognition of the specific challenges that these children face. The funding we are providing will enable schools to offer, mainly pastoral, support for them.³⁷

4.3 2013–14

The Service Premium rose to £300 per pupil, and the eligibility criteria were extended:

Eligibility for the Service Child Premium has been extended to include children whose parents have died in service and are in receipt of pensions under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

In addition, those children eligible for the Service Premium in 2011-12 and/ or 2012-13 who would otherwise no longer be covered by the Service Premium will retain their eligibility in 2013-14 ... We recognise that the challenges many of these children face do not automatically stop when their parent leaves the service. Some parents may for example be injured in service. The funding will help schools to prepare the children for civilian life.³⁸

4.4 2014–15

The Service Premium remained at £300 although the eligibility criteria was broadened to include children whose parent or parents had been in the armed forces in 2013–14 (as well as 2011–12 or 2012–13 as previously) or where they had divorced. The Schools Minister told the House:

the service child premium will be set at £300 per pupil and we are continuing to expand the protection for pupils previously attracting the service child premium since its introduction in April 2011 whose parents are no longer in the armed forces or where

³⁵ [HC Deb 8 December 2010 c306](#)

³⁶ [HC Deb 12 December 2011 c64WS](#)

³⁷ Department for Education, [2012-13 Pupil Premium Q and A](#), p4

³⁸ Department for Education, [Pupil Premium 2013-14 Q&A](#), undated, p2

parents have divorced. We will also continue to fund schools in respect of children of parents who were killed in action.³⁹

5 Payment of the Premiums to local authorities and schools

In terms of how the money would be paid, this depended on the type of school. For mainstream schools,⁴⁰ the pupil premium would be passed “straight to schools”, but would not be ring-fenced at the school level; Mr Gove explained that this would mean that “schools will have freedom to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment”. The DfE added:

The pupil premium is not ring fenced at school level and we trust schools to use this funding for the purposes it was intended. To help schools, we will make available the latest and best evidence of the activities, interventions and strategies that can raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils covered by the pupil premium.

However, we intend to hold schools accountable for how they use the premium in a number of ways.

- We plan to include new measures in the performance tables that will capture the achievement of those pupils covered by the pupil premium;
- We will also require schools to publish online how they have used the premium. This will ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the progress and attainment of pupils covered by the premium and concentrate schools’ minds on using it appropriately.⁴¹

This second point was implemented for the 2012–13 funding year, as Ms Teather told the House:

To ensure transparency and accountability, schools will be required from September 2012 to publish online information about how they have used their pupil premium allocations. New measures will be included in the performance tables that will capture the attainment of pupils covered by the pupil premium.⁴²

Some Looked After Children live and are educated in a different authority to the one which looks after them. The DfE decided that it would allocate the premium to the local authority which looks after the child, but where the child was educated in a mainstream setting, the local authority would be required to pass on the full level of the premium to the school or academy where the looked after child is being educated, including where that school is in a different local authority – around 30% of Looked After Children are educated outside their home authority.⁴³

³⁹ [HC Deb 12 December 2013 c51WS](#)

⁴⁰ The normal definition of mainstream is state funded schools excluding special schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), and alternative provision.

⁴¹ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, p11, paras 33–34

⁴² [HC Deb 12 December 2011 c64WS](#)

⁴³ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, pp8–9, paras 24, 25 and 26

The “service premium” would be allocated to the local authority where the Service child is educated. The DfE stated that the local authority will be required by the conditions of grant to pass on the premium to those schools where the children are being educated.⁴⁴

6 School admissions for pupils in receipt of the Premium

Between July and September 2014, the Government ran a [consultation](#) on changes to the *School Admissions Code* that would give admission authorities in England the option to prioritise disadvantaged children in their admission arrangements.⁴⁵

The Government published its [response](#) to this consultation in October 2014. The response stated that following a positive response to initial proposals, the Government would:

- allow all schools to have the freedom to give admission priority for all children attracting the pupil premium, the early years pupil premium and the service premium. (Academies and free schools already have this option; the change would expand this freedom to local authority maintained schools.)
- allow admission authorities of primary schools which have a nursery to give priority in their admission arrangements to disadvantaged children who attend the nursery.

Neither of these changes would be compulsory; schools would be free to adopt them or not as they wished.⁴⁶

These changes will come into force in December 2014.

⁴⁴ Department for Education, [The school funding settlement for 2011-12: The pupil premium and Dedicated Schools Grant](#), 13 December 2010, p10, para 28

⁴⁵ Department for Education, [Changes to the School Admissions Code](#), July 2014

⁴⁶ Department for Education, [Changes to the School Admissions Code: Government consultation response](#), October 2014, p4-5