



Guidance

Pupil premium

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This guidance is an overview of pupil premium for school staff, parents and anyone else interested in the pupil premium.

There's separate guidance about [using pupil premium](#) funding for school leaders.

Purpose

Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. Evidence shows that disadvantaged children generally face additional challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as other pupils.

Pupil eligibility and funding rates

This table shows how much pupil premium funding schools and local authorities receive for each eligible child.

| Pupil eligibility criteria | Amount of funding for each primary-aged pupil per year | Amount of funding for each secondary-aged pupil per year | Funding is paid to |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years | £1345 | £955 | School |
| Pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care | £2345 | £2345 | School |
| Children who are looked after by the local authority | £2345 | £2345 | Local authority |

Eligible schools

The following schools are allocated pupil premium funding based on the number of eligible pupils who attend.

Local authority-maintained schools

This includes:

- mainstream infant, primary, middle, junior, secondary and all-through schools serving children aged 5 to 16
- schools for children with special educational needs or disabilities
- pupil referral units (PRUs), for children who do not go to a mainstream school

Academies, free schools and non-maintained special schools

This includes:

- mainstream academies serving pupils aged 5 to 16
- academies and non-maintained special schools for children with special educational needs or disabilities
- alternative provision (AP) academies, for children who do not go to a mainstream school

Pupil premium funding is also provided to local authorities for eligible pupils in independent special schools, where the local authority pays full tuition fees.

Service pupil premium (SPP)

[Service pupil premium](#) is additional funding for schools, but it is not based on disadvantage. It has been combined into pupil premium payments to make it easier for schools to manage their spending.

Schools get £310 for every pupil with a parent who:

- is serving in HM Forces
- has retired on a pension from the Ministry of Defence

This funding is to help with pastoral support.

Use of the pupil premium

Funding paid to schools

School leaders are best placed to assess their pupils' needs and use the funding to improve attainment, drawing on evidence of effective practice. It is up to school leaders to decide how to spend the pupil premium.

Evidence suggests that pupil premium spending is most effective when schools use a tiered approach, targeting spending across 3 areas, with a particular focus on teaching.

1. Teaching

Investing in high-quality teaching, for example:

- training and professional development for teachers
- recruitment and retention
- support for teachers early in their careers

2. Targeted academic support

Additional support for some pupils focussed on their specific needs, for example:

- one-to-one tuition
- small group tuition
- speech and language therapy

3. Wider approaches

Support for non-academic issues that impact success in school, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional challenges. For example:

- school breakfast clubs
- counselling to support emotional health and wellbeing
- help with the cost of educational trips or visits

Read the [Education Endowment Foundation's \(EEF\) pupil premium guide](#) for information about the tiered approach to spending.

Funding paid to local authorities for looked after children

Virtual School Heads are responsible for managing the funding given to local authorities for the children in their care. They work with schools to ensure the funding is used to help deliver the outcomes identified in the children's personal education plans.

They can pass all of the funding on to schools or retain some to fund activities that will benefit a group, or all, of the authority's looked after children.

Further information is available on [Virtual School Heads responsibilities](#) for using pupil premium.

Non-eligible pupils

Schools do not have to spend pupil premium so it solely benefits [eligible pupils](#). They can use it wherever they identify the greatest need. For example, they might spend it on pupils who do not get free school meals but:

- have or have had a social worker
- act as a carer

Using pupil premium funding to improve teaching quality is the most effective way to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. By doing so, schools will inevitably benefit non-eligible pupils as well.

Academically able pupils

Pupil premium funding is not allocated based on academic ability. Schools and local authorities will receive funding based on all of the children who are eligible.

Evidence shows that academically able pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are most at risk of under-performing. These pupils should receive just as much focus as less academically able pupils.

Accountability

Schools must show how they're using their pupil premium funding:

- by publishing an [online statement](#) about how they use their funding and the impact it has on the attainment of disadvantaged pupils
- through [inspections by Ofsted](#)
- through published performance tables

Virtual School Heads demonstrate to Ofsted how they're managing pupil premium for looked-after children in the Virtual School Annual Report.

Further information

For more information, read the:

- guidance for school leaders on [using pupil premium](#) funding effectively
- [Education Endowment Foundation's pupil premium guide](#)
- the [funding allocations](#) which show the funding given to each school and at national, local authority and parliamentary constituency level

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