



WHAT IS PUPIL PREMIUM?

OVERVIEW

The 'Pupil Premium' is a government initiative that provides extra funding aimed at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their peers and that there is a strong link between eligibility for free school meals and underachievement. The Pupil Premium is designed to help each school boost the attainment of disadvantaged children and reduce the gap between the highest and the lowest achievers. The government has used pupils' entitlement to free school meals (FSM) and children looked after by the local authority (CLA) as an indicator for deprivation. The funding is allocated according to the number of pupils on roll who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (known as 'Ever6 FSM'), an allocation for each pupil who has been 'Looked After' (in care) and a smaller amount for the children of service families.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever6 FSM').
- Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months.
- A smaller amount is allocated for the children of service personnel, to fund and additional support that may be needed for their emotional and social well-being.
- The initial funding in 2011-12 was £488 per pupil from Reception to Year 6 who were eligible for free school meals and for children in care who had been continuously looked after for six months, with £200 per pupil for the children of service families.
- Since then, the funding available to schools has been steadily increased with the amount per eligible child now at £1320 for the academic year 2016-17.
- It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium is spent. The government acknowledges that it is schools that 'are best placed to assess what additional provision their pupils need' (DfE 2013).
- Schools are accountable for how they use the additional funding to support pupils from low-income families.
- From September 2014, it became statutory that information about annual Pupil Premium income and expenditure be published on school websites.