

PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS POLICY 2023-24

Introduction

The policy is informed by the following Department for Education (DfE) documents:

1. Pupil Premium 2022 to 2023: conditions of grant for local authorities (March 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2022-to-2023>
2. Pupil Premium: virtual school heads' responsibilities (March 2015)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>
3. Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children (February 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>
4. Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (February 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>
5. [Promoting the education of children with a social worker \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104842/pupil-premium-plus-conditions-of-grant-2022-23.pdf)
(June 2022)

Principles

- Westmorland and Furness Council has a strong ethos of corporate parenting and everyone in the authority promotes high aspirations and seeks to secure the best outcomes for children and young people in care.
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for managing pupil premium plus (PP+) funding for all the children and young people in care to Westmorland and Furness Council wherever they live.
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for allocating PP+ to schools and alternative provision (AP) settings.
- The allocation of pupil premium plus will be on a needs-driven basis as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- The pupil premium plus is to help improve the attainment of children looked after and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.
- The impact of the pupil premium plus is reviewed termly in the PEP and reviewed by the Virtual School Head.

- The pupil premium plus is not a personal budget for individual children and young people. The Virtual School Head and schools manage their pupil premium plus allocation for the benefit of their cohort and according to the needs of the child/young person.

Allocation of pupil premium plus

For 2023-2024, the DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2,530 per child looked after. Virtual School will allocate the pupil premium plus to schools on a termly basis based on the educational needs identified in the child's/young person's PEP. Schools must submit the PEPs each term to the Virtual School in order to receive the funding. Depending on circumstances, £2,400 is available per school-age child looked after by Westmorland and Furness, up to £800 per term. It is expected that schools will adhere to this termly expenditure. In exceptional circumstances, where additional funding is needed, this can be considered; however, there must first be a discussion with the link CLA Achievement Teacher from the Virtual School who will liaise with the Virtual School Head. To ensure the CLA in school receive their allocation of pupil premium plus, the Designated Teacher must send the completed PEP to the Virtual School within five working days of the PEP meetings/reviews and by the deadline date shown on the PEP. Schools will receive the funding at the end of each term.

Pupil premium plus and the PEP

The PEP is the key document to be used to plan for how the pupil premium plus will be spent and so the role of the designated teacher is crucial in ensuring that the PEP is of high quality and provides the information below:

- The views of the child/young person and how these will be addressed.
- Prior attainment and current attainment data, to show whether the child is on track to make the expected level of progress.
- Attendance data to ensure that the child has every opportunity to attend and engage in learning.
- Educational needs must be identified using the above data and knowledge of the child's wider needs.
- Intended outcomes must be clear and quantitative targets for improvement must be set.
- Interventions supported by pupil premium plus must be evidence based and in the best interests of the child.
- Costings must be provided for interventions and clear timescales for intervention and by whom.
- Outcomes must be evaluated when the PEP is reviewed at the end of each term and impact of pupil premium plus must be recorded.

Further information on PEPs and use of pupil premium plus can be found at:

[Virtual School for children looked after - Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

Why might the amount of pupil premium plus a child receives vary?

Some children and young people need more pupil premium plus and some need less. This is because:

- Children and young people who are new into care may have had a fragmented home and education history. They may have unmet needs and they may be academically behind their peers.
- Children and young people in care may have a significant (and often delayed) reaction to trauma, abuse and neglect, which manifests in hard to anticipate behavioural 'spikes'.
- Children and young people with attachment difficulties may need additional support to help them to trust people and form and maintain relationships.
- Some children and young people may be in a stable placement and have received a lot of interventions/additional support which has helped them catch up and they may not need the full amount.

Does the young person have a say in how pupil premium plus is spent?

It is very important that the child/young person is involved in the PEP process and they may be able to identify aspects of their learning where they feel they need additional help. This information is gathered and recorded as part of the PEP process. If the child/young person feels unable to take part in their PEP meeting, their views must always be included within the meeting and considered in any decision-making process. If for any reason their requests cannot be met, an explanation must be provided to them and recorded in the PEP.

Can social workers, foster carers and others involved with the child/young person determine how pupil premium plus is spent?

Social workers, foster carers and others involved with the child/young person have a valuable contribution to make via the PEP meeting. However, the overriding principle is that the pupil premium plus must focus on improving educational outcomes. This will be based on the school's assessment and understanding of what will best support the child/young person to achieve well and pursue their aspirations.

Circumstances in which pupil premium plus will not be provided

Pupil premium plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should have or has already been allocated to the school to support the child/young person.

Pupil premium plus cannot be used to:

- Fund services that should be provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Provide other statutory work eg statutory assessment or support from health.

- Fund services that the local authority is responsible for funding, such as support for foster carers, school uniforms, school meals or transport to get the child to and from school.

Pupil premium plus will not be allocated to the school when a child/young person is attending an independent special school, which is named in their EHCP. This is because the specialist provision should be fully meeting the child's/young person's identified needs and thus supporting them to achieve their full academic potential. The effectiveness and suitability of this provision and the progress being made by the young person is monitored through the PEP process, the SEND review process and any schedule of contract meetings between the Local Authority and the provider. If at any stage the school identifies that the child/young person has further needs, for which additional funding is required, this must be considered through the SEND review processes and in consultation with the Virtual School Head.

Recoupment

The Virtual School may recoup the pupil premium plus:

- If there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the child/young person's needs.
- If the child/young person moves education placement in order to transfer the money to the new placement.

Early years pupil premium plus

Guidance on the early years pupil premium plus can be accessed at (section 8):

[Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2023-24 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101222/early_years_entitlements_local_authority_funding_operational_guide_2023-24.pdf)

Pupil premium plus for children and young people from other local authorities

Westmorland and Furness schools who have children and young people in care from other local authorities on their roll must contact the Head Teacher of the placing Virtual School to request their pupil premium plus policy. The name and contact details of other Virtual School Heads can be requested from the Westmorland and Furness Virtual School team.

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