

An introduction to Pupil Premium+

Dear Parent/Carer,

Congratulations on taking on this very important role in a child's life. As the parent or carer, of a previously looked after child, you should be aware of the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding that is available to support the child in your care. This leaflet aims to explain what PP+ is and how it works.



Pupil Premium Plus for permanently placed children (often referred to as PP+) was introduced in 2014 in recognition that children who ceased to be looked after as a result of adoption, a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or a Care Arrangements Order (CAO) often require extra support and help in school in view of their early life experiences.

Who is eligible?

Children are eligible for PP+ if they:

- Are in local authority care in England or Wales.
- Have been adopted from care in England or Wales.
- Left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangements Order (CAO).
- PP+ is available for children from Reception to Year 11 in state schools in England and Wales.
- Children in independent schools or home education may be eligible if their education is funded by the Local Authority.
- Extra funding is also available for children aged 3 and 4 in early years education, who meet the criteria. This is funded separately by the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), which is not covered in this guide.

How much is available?

- Pupil Premium+ is currently £2690 per year, per eligible pupil.
- PP+ is paid directly to the child's school for Previously Looked After Children. (Adopted, SGO and CAO children.)
- PP+ is paid directly to the Local Authority for Looked After Children.

How is it accessed?

- Unlike PP funding, parents/carers of PP+ eligible children **MUST** self-declare their eligibility to their child's school, providing proof of their child's status, e.g. a photocopy of the adoption order. Parents may conceal sensitive information on such documentation if they wish. The school must record this information in the October census.
- It is important that parents/carers inform the school of their child's status well before the census, to ensure funding is allocated.
- Even if you have declared your child's status, it is recommended that you verify that this is recorded on the school census. If your child changes school, you will need to declare their status again.

Truth or Myth?

"Children have to be eligible for free school meals to get PP+"

Myth - There is no relationship between PP+ and free school meals. The Pupil Premium grant for disadvantaged children uses free school meals as a measure, PP+ does not.



What is the role of the school?

The school is responsible for:

- Identifying eligible pupils.
- Deciding how to use the PP+ funding.
- Measuring the impact of the funding on the child's educational outcomes.

What is your role as a carer?

As a carer, you should:

- Inform the school about the child's care status to ensure they receive the funding.
- Ask the school about their plans for using the PP+ funding and discuss with the school how the funding could best support your child. Share any specific needs or challenges your child may have.
- Stay involved in your child's education and provide feedback on the support they receive. Attend all parent-teacher meetings and discuss your child's progress.
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of interventions or support provided.

What is the difference between PP and PP+?

- The PP grant for disadvantaged children, aims to reduce the attainment gap caused by economic disadvantage.
- PP+ is awarded in recognition that many adopted and permanently placed children need extra support in school because of the circumstances that led to them being placed into care and later being adopted or being placed on an SGO or CAO.

What is PP+ used for?

- According to the DfE Q&A document on PP+ (2014), it can be spent on *"helping these children emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs."*
- The same document states that *"it is not intended that the additional funding should be used to back-fill the general school budget nor used to support other groups of pupils".*

Suggestions for effective use of PP+

- **Training:** understanding the reasons for the challenges that many children face is vital for all staff. Effective training in attachment and the effect of early trauma helps to ensure that any further intervention or support is evidence-based.
- **Therapeutic Interventions:** e.g. buying in creative arts therapy, sensory occupational therapy or play therapy for individuals or groups of children.
- **Additional Staff:** providing 1:1 support, providing meet and greets at the start of the day, running nurture groups, running additional activities during break and lunchtime.
- **Equipment and Facilities:** provision of a nurture room, calm boxes, sensory equipment, equipment for playground activities etc.

This list is not prescriptive or exhaustive. Many strategies, such as allowing children to bring in attachment objects from home, thorough transition planning, and effective home-school communications, cost nothing!

Is PP+ ring-fenced to those specific children?

PP+ is **not** ring-fenced either to the eligible cohort of children, or to an individual, eligible child. This allows schools to, for instance, pool funds to employ a staff member to support a group of children which may include some who are not entitled to PP+, as long as the provision is primarily designed to support the PP+ cohort.



Who is accountable for PP+ spending?

Schools must publish a strategy for their use of Pupil Premium funding as a whole, on their school website, including the amount they received, what barriers eligible pupils face, and how they spend Pupil Premium to overcome these. They do not need to report on PP+ separately, although

it is good practice to do so. While schools do not have a statutory duty to consult with parents on their use of PP+, there is a clear expectation in DfE guidance that *"schools will want to engage with them about the education of pupils on their roll,"* and will *"take particular advantage of this relationship with regards to formerly looked after children"*. Parents are best placed to identify their own child's particular needs.

***Remember, you are the child's advocate.**

Don't hesitate to engage with the school about how PP+ funding can best support the child in your care.