

# Blackburn with Darwen

## Pupil Premium Plus Policy for Children in Our Care

### 2022-23

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The Pupil Premium Plus provides funding for the DfE policy to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and to close the gap with their peers. For the financial year 2021-22 the basis of Pupil Premium Plus allocation to the Local Authority for Children in Our Care is calculated on a per pupil from Years R to 11 of **£2410**.

In addition and through a separate process, children who have left care to be adopted on a Residence Order or on a Special Guardianship Order will be entitled to **£2410** passed directly to the school. This grant is outside the remit of this policy and parents or guardians of post-LAC children should inform schools, academies and education settings of this status so that it can be recorded on the School Census. **(Please note DfE change and the autumn census is now used to calculate PP+)**

#### Conditions

The conditions of grant for are set out on the DfE website [Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocation-conditions)

#### Role of the Virtual School Head

The Children and Families Act 2014 amended the Children's Act 1989 to require all Local Authorities to have a Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) who has additional statutory powers to carry out the duty to promote the educational achievement of the children it looks after. *Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children, Statutory guidance for local authorities, February 2018* provides the framework for local authorities to discharge their statutory duties. The VSH must manage the grant allocation to be used for the benefit of the looked after child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP).

This has statutory force and **there is no requirement** for the Virtual School Head to give the money to schools or to pass the full amount. The Virtual School Head for Blackburn with Darwen is Charlotte Hesketh.

VSHs are responsible for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating pupil premium funding to benefit children looked after by the authority:

- making sure that it is spent effectively and fully;
- being able to demonstrate how pupil premium funding managed by the VSH is linked to raising achievement and closing the gap;
- having arrangements in place to engage with the looked after child's school about how the pupil premium funding is contributing to meet the needs identified in his/her PEP.

#### Eligibility

Those eligible for the PP+ in the financial year 2022-23 are provisionally identified on DfE return SSDA903 in March 2022 as those looked after for at least one day in the previous financial year.

## **Circumstances in which Pupil Premium Plus will not be provided**

Pupil Premium Plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which has already have been allocated to the school to support the child for example:

- To fund services that should be provided via an EHCP or an exceptional high needs funding request.
- Other statutory work e.g. speech and language or occupational therapy, statutory assessment or other support from health, CAMHS or education psychology.
- For provisions put in place that do not require any additional funding.
- When the school's own funding, that includes the budget share for children looked after covers the cost of the interventions.
- When the PEP SMART targets and the Pupil Premium Provision Map does not meet requirements.
- When data requested by the BwD Virtual School is not submitted in a timely fashion.
- Where it is a cost that can be reasonably expected to be covered by foster carers through their allowances.

Decisions about the use of the funding must be clearly linked to the specific targets agreed during the Personal Education Planning meeting and recorded within the PEP documentation.

## **Management and accountability**

### **Local Authority level:**

The Virtual School Head will be accountable to the Virtual School Governing Body and to the BwD Corporate Parenting Advisory Group for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process and ensuring maximised impact of the grant. An overview of the use and impact of the PP+ will be included in the VSH Annual Report.

### **School level:**

The Head Teacher will sign off the proposed expenditure for the Pupil Premium Plus outlined in the PEP. The Designated Teacher for the school will hold accountability in school for the allocation and expenditure of the Pupil Premium Plus and report on this at the termly PEP review and to their own governing body through their annual report.

## **Use of Pupil Premium Plus**

Pupil Premium Plus must be used to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in care to Blackburn with Darwen in the following area:

- Academic achievement and progress

However it may be appropriate to consider the following areas as additionality:

- Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child is gifted and talented
- Attendance

- Social skills\*
- Inclusion e.g. reducing fixed term exclusions
- Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider
- Emotional health and well-being

\*Pupil Premium Plus should not be routinely used to fund school trips and out of school leisure activities unless there is a clear link between the trip/activity and a PEP target linked to academic achievement and progress where impact on 'closing the gap' can be clearly demonstrated. The Virtual School will reserve the right to refuse to allocate funding if it considers the proposed use is not appropriately identified.

In the past some schools may have used Pupil Premium Plus to fund interventions for other learners; interventions which have no direct link to the individual child in care's needs will no longer be funded.

**It is not acceptable for the Pupil Premium Plus to be used by the school to fund the Designated Teacher's time for example to fund supply cover to enable them to attend LAC reviews.**

None of the Pupil Premium Plus will be used to pay for Virtual School management.

### **Personal Education Plans [PEPs]**

In Blackburn with Darwen we expect the use of Pupil Premium to be closely linked to the individual targets within each looked after child's Personal Education Plan (PEP). The Designated Teacher (DT) for LAC should play a key role in planning the use of the Pupil Premium for each child/young person and in reviewing the impact of any intervention, making any adjustments as appropriate. The impact of any interventions on the child/young person's progress will then be monitored by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) at LAC Review meetings.

- The PEP is jointly agreed between school, social worker, carer and child/young person.
- The use of the funding must be clearly linked to the specific targets agreed during the Personal Education Planning meeting and recorded within the targets section.
- The PEP is submitted to the BwD Virtual School for approval.
- If not approved, the PEP is returned for amendment and resubmitted.
- Once approved, the pupils' name, school and review date is entered on an approved list
- The impact of the PEP is monitored through the termly review when any further amendments are made.
- Positive impact is recorded on the approval list.

### **Allocation of funding to Schools:**

- The Pupil Premium Grant of **£2010** will be allocated to schools; **£670** per term will be transferred to schools termly. This is based on receipt of a fully completed PEP, specifically the section in the PEP covering SMART targets and Pupil Premium Plus as well as receipt of any data requested termly by BwD Virtual School in a timely fashion. The use of PP+ must meet the requirements as outlined in this policy and associated PEP guidance.

- The remaining **£400** per pupil can be applied **for once per academic year** additionally through the appendix which is included in the PEP documentation. To apply for additional monies, it must be demonstrated that the termly allocation has already been used effectively through clearly linked SMART targets to the PP+ funded intervention with clearly identified outcomes and evidence of impact. The focus of the application for additional monies must be to improve the academic outcomes of the child. If approved, the additional funding will be released in addition to the standard termly allocation.
- We will not recoup Pupil Premium Plus where a child moves during the term.
- **We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is no evidence that the funding is being used to address the child in care's needs.**

### **Early Years Pupil Premium**

From April 2015 additional targeted funding for looked after children is available as an Early Years Pupil Premium for three and four year olds. Arrangements for this are monitored by the Early Years Team and reported to the VSH.

### **Pupil Premium Plus for Children and Young People from other Local Authorities**

Different approaches to allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus Funding will be adopted by other Local Authorities who have freedom to administer funds according to their own policy. Schools should contact the VSH for the relevant LA for clarification around their policy and arrangements.

### **Notes**

In exceptional circumstances should any deviation from this policy be deemed necessary, this should be agreed directly with the BwD Virtual Headteacher prior to any such provision being put in place.

### **Recovery Premium**

For 2022-23 the DfE have advised that they will provide recovery premium school for age Looked After Children which is to be distributed by the VSH. The recovery premium grant is part of the government's package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19). Recovery Premium of £145 per pupil will be issued **in 3 termly payments to schools of £48.33** (alongside their PP+ funding) – schools should ensure the use and impact of the recovery premium is recorded within the PEP.