



WORCESTERSHIRE
VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Previously Looked After and Children Looked After Pupil Premium Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with Worcestershire's Previously Looked After Children and Children Looked After Policy.

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Introduction

Whilst some of our Children who are Looked After (CLA) achieve well, the educational outcomes for CLA children and young people generally remain low compared to their peers. Many children entering care or starting school do so with low entry levels, a history of trauma and with special educational needs. An even greater number of CLA are underachieving and are not making the expected or accelerated levels of progress. It is intended that the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding outlined in this policy will address this issue by providing the resources for targeted support and intervention.

This policy is informed by the two key Department of Education (DfE) documents that influence the policy and practice arrangements for the Pupil Premium Plus for CLA for 2022 - 2023.

- Promoting the Education of looked-after Children and Previously looked-After Children (DfE 2018).
- Pupil Premium Plus Conditions of Grant 2022-23 (DfE 2022)

The government has set out, in its statutory guidance, that the Virtual School Head (VSH) is responsible for managing the Pupil Premium Plus budget. This Policy and associated practice will be reviewed annually and approved by the Virtual School Governing Body to reflect any change in DfE policy or funding arrangements.

What is Pupil Premium for Children Looked After?

Raising the attainment of CLA is a key priority and it is a responsibility shared by the Local Authority, schools, and their partners in the community. The Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) is a vital resource, and used effectively, it will diminish the difference in outcomes between disadvantaged children and their peers. Pupil Premium for CLA provides **additional funding** for schools to support and help raise the educational attainment and progress of their CLA pupils. The Virtual School devolves this funding to schools. It works, through the Personal Education Plan process, with designated teachers, social workers, and carers to target and utilise this funding effectively to improve **educational outcomes**.

The PP+ funding can be used to facilitate a wide range of educational support for CLA. It is important that interventions supported by **PP+ should be evidence-based and in the best interests of the child**.

Components of Pupil Premium

There are several components within Pupil Premium funding that relate to CLA or Previously Looked After Children (PLAC):

- Pupil Premium for CLA is known as **Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)**. For Worcestershire CLA this is distributed via Worcestershire Virtual School, in arrears at the end of each term.
- Pupil Premium for 'rising 3-year olds' is referred to as **Early Years Pupil Premium**. For Worcestershire CLA this is distributed via Local Authority Finance Team.
- Pupil Premium for children who have **left Care** via Adoption Order, Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order is known as **Previously Looked After Pupil Premium**. This is paid directly to schools. (See section 7 - 11).

Eligibility for PP+ funding and Early Years Pupil Premium

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for looked-after children is £342 (60p x 570 hours) per year and is for children who have been in care for one day or more, from the school term after their third birthday until they start in Reception class accessing their free entitlement through the universal offer.

In the statutory school years, CLA attract £2,410 PP+ annually from the first day of care between Reception age through to and including the summer term of year 11.

Up to £550 per CLA, per term can be allocated to schools when a child/young persons' Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed to a good standard.

If the child/young person is attending a private setting, PP+ would not ordinarily be allocated as this is provided through the care contract. Independent and specialist providers are not allocated PP+ other than where an exceptional need is identified. This is because such placements are funded to meet the individual child's educational and care needs through central local authority budgets. This ensures there is clarity about the additional impact expected from this funding, over and above that expected from the specialised provision already commissioned.

Schools are entitled to claim £2,410 per annum for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) (The DfE defines PLAC as those children that have left care because of Adoption, Special Guardianship (SGO) or Child Arrangement Orders (CAO).)

You may also get Early Years Pupil Premium if your child has left care in England through adoption, special guardianship order, a child arrangements order. Contact the Local Authority EY Funding Team for further details.

The 16-19 Bursary is the main additional funding allocated for post 16 students (see section 12).

Administration of Pupil Premium Plus and Early Years Pupil Premium funding

Local authorities receive a PP+ grant allocation based on the number of CLA for at least one day and aged 4 to 15 on 31 August, as recorded in the latest CLA data return. The Virtual School retains £760 (31%) of the annual £2,410 grant for each CLA, and it is used to improve outcomes for our CLA, including those placed outside of Worcestershire. Expenditure of the centrally retained funds is planned strategically by the Virtual School team. Please see Appendix 1, for further information.

Worcestershire Virtual School will administer the PP+ for Worcestershire CLA to the education provision where they are on roll. A payment will be made at the end of each academic term to the education provider, reflecting the SMART educational targets and funding agreed within the termly PEP process. If funding is required, it **must** be allocated on the PEP document in order for it to be released to the setting. If no funding is allocated on the PEP document, the setting **will not** receive funding.

The Local Authority in which the child is educated has the responsibility to pay the Early Years Pupil Premium to the early years providers that educate CLA, who are taking up the Universal Nursery Education Funding (NEF) entitlement for 3–4-year-olds, including Early Years providers or any other organisation that receives NEF from the local authority for children aged under 5, including nurseries and childminders.

The PP+ can be used to facilitate a wide range of educational and emotional support for CLA. When deciding on how to use PP+ to support a child, views should be sought from the Designated Teacher (in conjunction with class teachers, subject teachers, SENDCo, pastoral staff and other professionals working with the child/young person), Social worker, Carer, and the Virtual School representative. It is important that interventions supported by PP+ should be **evidence-based** and in the **best interests of the child**.

Use of Pupil Premium Plus and Early Years Pupil Premium for Children Looked After

PP+ and Early Years Pupil Premium (for CLA) should not be used for activities that the Local Authority should normally be expected to fund as the Corporate Parent.

PP+ funding can be spent on the following areas - over and above the school/settings normal core offer:

- (a) Academic provision, both lower and higher attaining young people, to include 1:1 support, peer mentoring, collaborative learning, resources, and tuition.
- (b) Use of interventions to prevent internal exclusions, suspension, and permanent exclusion (where schools can demonstrate that they have exhausted their universal offer).
- (c) Reintegration strategies/activities/plans.
- (d) Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider.
- (e) Improving attendance.
- (f) Developing social, emotional, and interpersonal skills (emotional intelligence, building self-esteem) through 1-1 key worker support, nurturing approach, mentoring, where they are a barrier to learning and can be directly linked to under-achievement.
- (g) Small group work where the impact is clear for the individual CLA.
- (h) Promoting engagement.
- (i) Extracurricular activities, including sport, outdoor activities, arts, culture and trips. In exceptional circumstances, additional PP+ funding can be requested to contribute to the cost of a residential trip, **if** it reflects an area for development in the targets within the PEP and the full amount cannot be met through Foster Care Allowances.

PP+ funding cannot be spent on:

- a) Anything a school would normally provide for **all** its pupils.
- b) Anything a carer would provide from their Foster Carer Allowances.
- c) Trips that are part of the curriculum, or specifically related to exam coursework.
- d) Transport costs to events or clubs.
- e) Services that would ordinarily be funded through the SEN Notional budget.
- f) The support set out in an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) – settings should utilise their SEN Notional and EHCP Top-up funding for this support.
- g) Interventions that have no additional cost and where the school or education providers' funding covers the cost.
- h) Basic equipment that the child or young person needs to participate or for lessons including school uniform, stationery, school lunches, or equipment for practical lessons. This also includes access to a computer and the internet for completion of homework or private study.
- i) Contributing to the salaries of substantive staff (as interventions should be time-limited).
- j) Reduced class sizes.

Request for Additional Pupil Premium Plus

Schools may apply for additional funding to meet the needs of an individual child or to raise the achievement of CLA in the school, to close the gap between their attainment and that of their peers. Equally, some clusters of schools or early years providers may have a proposal for using PP+ for the benefit of CLA in the locality. Any proposals should be discussed and agreed in writing with the Virtual School.

If additional PP+ or Early Years Pupil Premium is required, to support a CLA in crisis or for support requiring more funding than the termly payment, a request should be completed on the current PEP 'targets section' by the Designated Teacher, in agreement with their VS Learning Advocate (LAd). The request must include clear timescales, be short term and will be limited. Any request should identify evidenced based interventions to address the current needs of the young person, along with well defined outcomes, and should clearly outline why extra funding is required for that young person, before payment will be considered. The LAd will discuss the application with the Education Co-ordinator, should further information be required the LAd will contact the Designated Teacher. If no further information is required, the request will be processed by the Virtual School and if the application is successful, the Designated Teacher will be notified by the Learning Advocate.

Reviewing impact: Pupil Premium Plus and Early Years Pupil Premium for CLA

For the PEP to be purposeful and have a positive impact on the child it must set clear **SMART** targets for the child/young person. The PEP review should include an evaluation of the impact of the PP+ or Early Years Pupil Premium for CLA in aiding their progress towards the targeted areas. Progress against the targets and impact of PP+ **must be clearly evidenced**.

The designated teacher or early years setting manager will be accountable to the headteacher and the school governing body for the efficient expenditure and effective impact of the Pupil Premium Plus grant and the progress of the children in care on roll. The headteacher of the school must be aware of the amount of funding received by the school for CLA and PLAC, how effectively it is spent and the impact on learning. Each Designated Teacher (DT) should prepare a CLA report for their Governing Board on an annual basis. A report template is available on Worcestershire Virtual School website and enables DTs to provide details of how they have used the funding to support our young people in raising their attainment and improving outcomes in relation to their peers and other disadvantaged groups.

Worcestershire Virtual School collates information, on a termly basis, regarding the use of both the issued and the retained portion of the PP+. The VSH is accountable for managing the efficient use of Pupil Premium Plus in line with the purpose for which it has been provided and will produce an annual report on how Pupil Premium Plus has been managed and evidence on how the spending has supported improving outcomes for Children in Care. Schools remain accountable for the educational attainment and progress of their CLA and PLAC.

Eligibility for Previously Looked After Children Pupil Premium

Eligibility is those Children from Reception to year 11, who have left care because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or a child arrangement order. (Residence orders were replaced by Child arrangements orders on 22nd April 2014).

From 1 April 2023, pupil premium eligibility for pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care will include children adopted from outside of England and Wales.

It is for those with parental responsibility (adoptive parents, special guardians and carers of former children looked after, child arrangement orders) to decide if they wish to self-declare their children's status to schools. Schools should ensure parents and carers are aware of the funding available and therefore can make an informed decision. The designated teacher for children previously looked after can then ensure this cohort of children is fully supported and the school accesses the entitled pupil premium.

Parents are to provide supporting evidence, for example, a photocopy of the adoption order.

Declarations are voluntary, and confidentiality should be respected if parents and carers do not wish to declare their status.

N.B – this funding does not apply to PLAC who have returned home to the care of their parents and the care order has been revoked.

Administration of Previously Looked After Children Pupil Premium

The funding rate per child, per year is £2,410 (2022-2023) £2,530 (2023-2024 starting on 1st April 2023).

To ensure schools receive funding for each PLAC that attends their school, education settings must ensure they record each pupil's status in the October school census every year. Please note that if this census is missed, young people cannot be added to receive the funding until the following years census.

Use of Previously Looked After Pupil Premium

PP+ funding for PLAC is allocated directly to and managed by their school.

It is not a personal budget for individual children; however, schools may choose to allocate an amount of funding to an individual to support their needs. Funding should be used to improve the educational attainment and progress, and to support the SEMH needs of PLAC and to narrow the gap between them and their peers. Schools may find it useful to utilise the 'Inclusion Plan' document, which can be found on the virtual school website. ([Previously looked after child inclusion plan | Previously Looked After Children Advisor \(Virtual School\) | Worcestershire County Council](#))

It is good practice for Parents/ carers and guardians to be consulted and involved in decisions regarding the child/ young person's needs and agree on strategies to support their development.

Reviewing impact of Previously Looked After Children Pupil Premium

School Senior Leaders are responsible for reviewing the impact of Pupil Premium (FSM ever6, Service Personnel and PLAC) as a whole school and complete their reports for governors under their own Pupil Premium Policy. Schools can update their policy to make exceptional provision for PLAC Premium and 'ring fence' the funding, or part thereof, for the child who generates the Premium. Schools will need to provide evidence to their governing board and Ofsted regarding the use and impact of PLAC Pupil Premium.

Funding to support post-16 education and training

A bursary is available to help with education-related costs if the student is aged 16 to 19 and:

- studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
- on a training course, including unpaid work experience

A publicly funded school is one that does not charge for attending it. A bursary is money that the student, or the education or training provider, can use to pay for things such as:

- clothing, books, and other equipment for the course
- transport and lunch on study or training days

Any young person meeting the above requirements, who is in or who has recently left the care of the Local Authority will be eligible to apply for the bursary.

Please note: There is variation in how Post 16 Providers administer the bursary, so please liaise with your current provider for clarity.

How to claim

Any Year 11 school leaver who has made an application to a Further Education college or a Training Provider may apply for the 16-19 Bursary. Applications can be made regardless of whether the young person has a conditional or unconditional offer for the following academic year. The young person will have received a student number which was generated when they submitted their application, and this will be required for the bursary application. The bursary is worth up to £1,200, depending on the young persons' circumstances and benefits.

The application is made directly to the college/training provider's Finance Team that the young person will be attending at the start of the academic year. The application form can be found on the website for each college/training provider under Student Services or Student Finance.

The Virtual School will continue to support the young person through the post-16 Personal Progression Plan (PPP) process, although the bursary will be administered by the Further Education or Training provider.

Appendix 1 - Useful documents and websites

[Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers operational guide 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[The designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children](#)

[Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)

[16 to 19 Bursary Fund](#)

[The Virtual School | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Pupil premium 2022 to 2023: technical note - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Pupil Premium Guide Apr 2022 1.0.pdf \(d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net\)](#)