

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is funding provided to schools which is additional to main school funding. It is allocated according to the number of pupils on-roll who are/have been eligible for free school meals (FSM), are Post- LAC and an allocation for each pupil who is currently 'Looked After' (in care) for 6 months or more. In 2012, funding was extended to include pupils who have been eligible for free school meals within the past 6 years.

Why was it introduced?

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

The Pupil Premium is allocated to schools per FSM pupil and is clearly identifiable. It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for pupils.

Pupil Premium funding contributes to the cost of support programmes designed to support vulnerable pupils and pupils not on track. Schools are held accountable for how they have used the additional funding and must publish online information about how they have used the Premium.

Principles

We monitor the performance of all of our pupils. The school identifies intervention strategies for all pupils who are not making sufficient progress. This is then recorded and regularly reviewed and amended according to pupil needs.

The strategies identified for raising the achievement of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium are, with a few exceptions, available to support all pupils who are not on track, or who need support to access learning successfully. The intervention is provided in response to need.

Our Philosophy

We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all pupils. Every child matters and no child is invisible.

We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils that belong to vulnerable groups. This includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addressed.

We recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for Free School Meals. The Governors reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as needing additional support to improve outcomes in learning and/or well-being. Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority groups or individuals.

The pupil premium budget for 2017 18 has been devoted to enhancing the learning environment to support the development of Physical and Sensory Skills. Following the construction of the Babbage Building we lost a significant area of play area which meant that we had find a way to help our pupils meet their physical and sensory needs in a more limited space. We now have Physical and Sensory Play areas for all school and age groups in the school. The latest addition to the facilities is the Sensory Playground which was built by Timotay in consultation with BILTT Trust Board Members and School Leaders. David Sawford supported this project which was led by Julia Jones.

We have also installed a new Rumpus Room which all pupils can access. This incorporates a small light and sound room for calm sensory work and then an area for more energetic activities including a trampette and soft play blocks. In some classrooms we have installed a padded safe environment where pupils can learn if required.

We ensure that the children in receipt of Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium Plus all access these and their IEP targets address their Physical and Sensory Needs. The design of the facilities took account of the need of these pupils. The Pupil Premium Coordinator tracks the progress of the pupils in relation to Physical and Sensory to ensure that maximum benefit is derived. Physical and Sensory Development is judged as outstanding for Pupil Premium Pupils.

Pupil Premium Plus pupils have access to these facilities – some have designated facilities in their classroom. We are a specialist college in Communication and Intereaction so we also provide Music Therapy to support these pupils which helps their communication and intereaction. Their progress across all aspects of the EHCP is also outstanding overall.

Some Pupil Premium pupils also require specialist equipment which we will always ensure we provide if possible. The Pupil Premium funding helps to build this provision.