



HELPING EVERY CHILD TO THRIVE

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**Barking &
Dagenham**

Aspire Virtual School, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Pupil Premium Plus Policy for LBBD Looked after Children

Financial Year 2025-26

Introduction

This policy is informed by key Department of Education (DfE) documents announcing changes in the arrangements for Pupil Premium for Looked After Children for the financial year 2025-26

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2025-to-2026>

Throughout our policy, the Pupil Premium for Looked after Children will be referred to as **Pupil Premium Plus** to distinguish it from other forms of Pupil Premium allocations.

Basis of the allocations to the local authority

In June 2025 the DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2,630 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2025 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2024. DfE will update and finalise this allocation in December 2025.

Children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales

In addition, and through a separate process, children adopted from care under the Adoption & Children Act 2002 and children who have left Care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order will be entitled to £2,630 passed directly to the school via the school's census.

Schools Census guidance which explains exactly what schools need to record on the census return and highlights the sensitivities that may exist around asking parents to self-disclose:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-the-school-census>

Please note that this grant is outside the remit of this policy and the role of the Virtual School

For further information please see:

[Pupil premium: overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-overview)

Each Virtual Head must develop a policy for allocation of the funding for the local authority. The grant must be managed by the Virtual School and used to improve attainment, narrow the gap and accelerate progress as identified in the young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP) in consultation with the Designated Teacher and social Worker.

Overriding Principles

The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for the use of Pupil Premium Plus to close the learning gap and realise the potential for all children in our care, wherever they live.

The funding will be provided according to the needs of the child and there is no set amount. The Local Authority has discretion about how the Pupil Premium Plus is used for children educated in non-mainstream settings. This is exercised through the Virtual School.

LBBD and the Virtual School Headteacher are Corporate Parents, so the question 'would this be good enough for my child?' is a central one in making decisions and evaluating the effectiveness of the use of Pupil Premium Plus

The amount of Pupil Premium Plus allocated

Children's needs may vary over time and therefore a personalised approach is needed. For some children a significant amount will be needed to fund the cost of additional support.eg:

- Children who come into care in an emergency with a fragmented home and education history who are behind academically.
- Children who move into or out of LBBD who may require additional support
- Children with significant and often delayed reaction to abuse and neglect, which may present as complex emotional, social and/or challenging behaviour impacting on progress

In view of this, there may be **variations** in the amount of Pupil Premium Plus distributed.

Proposals to pool Pupil Premium Plus in a school or group of schools to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to the needs of LAC via the PEP, are acceptable.

Circumstances in which Pupil Premium Plus will not be agreed

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. Specifically, it cannot be used to:

- Fund services that should be provided via an EHC plan
- Provide other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health services

Pupil Premium Plus must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:

- Academic achievement and progress
- Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child is gifted and talented
- Attendance
- Inclusion [by reducing internal and external exclusion]
- Social Skills
- Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider

Pupil Premium Plus may not be paid if:

- The interventions put in place do not require any funding
- The school's own funding covers the cost of the interventions
- The PEP targets do not meet requirements as set out by LBBB
- The PEP is quality assured as Inadequate or requires improvement

Management and Accountability

The Headteacher of the LBBB Virtual School will be accountable to LBBB Corporate Parenting Group and for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process and ensuring maximised impact of the grant. An annual report is made to the Corporate Parenting and Virtual School Management Committee as part of the process of accountability.

The Headteacher has responsibility that Pupil Premium Plus is used in-line with the conditions of grant 2025/2026 and LBBB Virtual School Policy Statement.

The Designated Teacher is responsible for proposing an appropriate child's needs driven spending plan. The Designated Teacher is accountable via the PEP meeting for monitoring and measuring the impact of the actions and interventions agreed. These will be reviewed in terms of narrowing the gap for impact.

The Social Worker and Foster Carer have a key role in supporting and informing the discussions at the PEP meeting for a proposal of how Pupil Premium Plus could be used. They also have a key role in supporting the young person in achieving their targets.

As a result, the Personal Education Plan (PEP) will need to be monitored even more closely by the Designated Teacher, the Virtual School team, the Social Worker, Team Leaders and Independent Reviewing Officers.

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

Each Local Authority has its own policy and therefore there will be variations.

LBBB Schools who have Children and Young People in Care from other Local Authorities on their roll must contact the Headteacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their Pupil Premium Plus policy. The name and contact details of other Virtual School Head teachers can be requested from the LBBB Virtual School team.

Please note that according to the DfE:

"It is for the local authority to decide how much of this funding to pass on to the child's school."

Allocation of funding to Schools

The Pupil Premium Grant core payments will be transferred **termly** via LBBD's schools finance system we will be allocating money on the following basis:

EYFS: £300 per year (£100 per term)

KS1: £900 per year (£300 per term)

KS2, KS3, KS4: £1,650 per year (£550 per term)

In addition, year 6 students will receive £350 to help prepare for SATs and children identified as part of our Aspire Higher cohort will receive an additional payment of £400

Payments will be issued with an agreed spending plan in line with the child's needs and subject to receiving a high-quality PEP.

Additional funding requests will be considered **termly** and should be completed on the appropriate form which can be found on the Virtual School website: <http://www.aspirevirtualschool.org.uk/>

PEPs

PEPs will continue to identify needs in a high-quality plan with clear quantitative [and exceptionally qualitative] targets for improvement, underpinned by well-targeted support. They will also contain the school's ongoing evaluation of the use of Pupil Premium Plus funding.

Where there is a need to clarify what funding a school is providing from its own resources, the school may need to provide evidence before Pupil Premium Plus can be allocated.

Allocation of grant to Special/Alternative/PRU/Independent providers and recoupment policy

Pupil Premium Plus will only be paid to independent special schools in **exceptional circumstances**. This is because the provision required by pupils in these settings is agreed at the time of placement and already invoiced and paid in full by LBBD. Exceptional circumstances are identified through the young person's needs and identified support, evidenced as additional to what the provider would be reasonably expected to provide. We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the needs of the Looked after Children.

Circulation list

The Pupil Premium Plus policy documents may be shared with all schools, social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers, foster carers and foster care support staff, residential staff and Virtual School Heads in all other LAs so that everyone is aware of how the PPG will be distributed, monitored and quality assured for outcomes for the current financial year.

For more information see:

OFSTED, The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximize achievement (February, 2013): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-the-funding-successfully>

Department for Education: 'Pupil Premium – Funding and Accountability for Schools':

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

Pupil Premium Toolkit: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit>

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