

**Waltham Forest Virtual School  
Pupil Premium Plus Policy  
For  
Children in Care  
2018-2019**

## **1. Introduction**

This policy is informed by two key Department for Education (DfE) documents:

1. [Pupil Premium Grant 2018 to 2019 Conditions of Grant](#)
2. *Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15 - Frequently Asked Questions (March 2014)*

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

- 1.1 'Pupil Premium Plus' funding of £2300 per child in care is paid to Virtual School Headteachers annually.
- 1.2 The overall grant allocated to each LA will be calculated on a per capita basis. However, it does not have to be distributed on a per capita basis, given that children and young people in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care.
- 1.3 The grant must be managed by the Virtual School and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap” as identified in the Personal Education Plan [PEP] in consultation with the designated teacher. As a result, PEPs will need to be monitored even more closely by designated teachers, the Virtual School team, social workers team leaders and Independent Reviewing Officers.
- 1.4 Early Years Pupil Premium is additional funding (£300 per year) for Early Years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds. Children aged 3 and 4 years who are looked after by Waltham Forest Council and who receive free early education will attract EYPP funding, even if they do not take-up the full free early education entitlement.
- 1.5 In addition and through a separate process, children adopted from care will be entitled to £2300 passed directly to the school. However, this grant is outside the remit of this policy.

Waltham Forest Virtual School’s allocation of Pupil Premium Plus is a “**child’s needs driven model**”, managed through high quality PEPs.

## **2. Pupil Premium Plus Arrangements 2018-2019**

### 2.1 Overall principles underpinning our child’s needs driven model

Pupil Premium Plus is to benefit the child in care and must be used to enhance and improve their education. The child in care’s voice and their specific needs are of paramount importance in considering the use and impact of this money by schools and settings. The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for the use of Pupil Premium Plus to improve outcomes for all children in our care, wherever they live.

- a) The funding will be provided according to the needs of the child.
- b) Part of the grant may be retained to fund Virtual School led interventions and training delivered through the Virtual School. All interventions will be subject to review on an annual basis.

- c) Proposals to pool Pupil Premium Plus in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to individual children in care's needs, are acceptable.
- d) Waltham Forest Council and the Virtual School Headteacher are Corporate Parents, therefore 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.

## **2.2. How and why will the amount of Pupil Premium Plus passed on to schools vary?**

- Children's needs vary and can change significantly.
- Some children may only be in care as a temporary measure
- Children in care may move schools more frequently and not at natural transition points.
- Annual Allocations of PPP rather than termly

In view of this, there may be a significant difference in the amount of Pupil Premium Plus distributed by all LAs, and there will be a variable amount of Pupil Premium Plus distributed for individual children Looked After by Waltham Forest. Proposals to pool Pupil Premium Plus in a school to enhance services, providing the use is directly linked to children in care's needs via the PEP, are allowed.

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

Pupil Premium Plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already have been allocated to the school to support the child, specifically:

- To fund services that should be provided via a statement, SEN support plan or Education Health and Care plan
- To fund other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from Health
- The interventions put in place do not require any funding.
- The school's own funding covers the cost of the interventions or the interventions are part of the school's universal offer.
- The interventions have no link to the child in care's needs.
- The PEP does not meet requirements (see section 3.1).

## **3. Management and accountability**

The Headteacher of the Virtual School will be accountable to the Corporate Parenting Board, the Director of Waltham Forest Children and Young People's Service and the Virtual School Improvement Group for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process, ensuring that effective use and impact of the grant is monitored, evaluated, supported and, where necessary, challenged.

Use and impact of the PPP will be clearly recorded in the child/young person's PEP and in other evaluative documentation held by the Virtual School. Impact will also be measure against termly progress data and returns from schools.

Schools and settings are accountable for ensuring the money is used appropriately and effectively to enhance and improve the child in care's educational achievement. Targets will be submitted termly by the school/setting via the PEP. Schools will be expected to review the previous terms target and the effect of the pupil premium spending.

The Virtual School reserves 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.

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

Schools will be asked to review and detail the impact of the PPP via the PEP for each application they submit for further funding. This will be used for evaluation purposes.

We will allocate to each school with a Waltham Forest child in care on roll an annual PPP grant on receipt of a completed PEP from the school identifying how the school will use the Pupil Premium Plus for the academic year, the intended outcomes and making clear the links to the child/young person's PEP targets. An invoice from the school must be submitted along with the completed PEP.

Pupil Premium Plus must be used to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in care to Waltham Forest in the following areas:

- Academic achievement and progress
- Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child is gifted and talented or to raise aspirations
- Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider

The Pupil Premium Plus will **only** be provided to meet the needs identified in a high quality plan in the PEP with clear quantitative [and exceptionally qualitative] targets for improvement, underpinned by well-targeted support.

Paragraph 28 of the Statutory Guidance, *Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children* (2018, DfE), states:

*VSHs should make arrangements for PEPs to be reviewed each school term. This should include mapping how the pupil premium and any other additional funding has been used to support the targets set in the PEP. This is to ensure that the story of the child's educational progress is current and continues to meet the child's educational needs. It is also to ensure that information from the PEP is available to feed into the next statutory review of the wider care plan. The nature of these arrangements and who to involve are for the VSH to decide in partnership with others.*

### **3.2. Allocation of funding to mainstream maintained schools and mainstream academies**

The grant is paid to schools in line with this policy. 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 child.

### **3.3 Allocation of funding to any other educational providers**

We will consider requests for Pupil Premium Plus from other educational providers only in exceptional circumstances, because these are already funded at a high level by central budgets. Any funding requests must be discussed at a Personal Education Plan meeting, agreed by all and submitted to the Virtual Headteacher through the PEP which identifies need and costs.

### **3.4 Allocation of funding to schools and recoupment policy**

The Pupil Premium Grant will be transferred three times a year according to the table below:

<b>Claim date</b>	<b>Claim payment</b>
April - September	October/November
October - January	February/March
February - March	March

Payments will be based on a fully costed high quality PEP. We will consider requests for additional funding in exceptional circumstances.

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.

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 evidence that the funding is not being used to address the Child in Care's needs.

### **4. Pupil Premium Plus for Children and Young People attending Waltham Forest schools and settings placed by other Local Authorities.**

Different approaches will be adopted by different LAs and schools should discuss arrangements with the placing local authority Virtual School Head. A request for the Pupil Premium Policy should identify how the PPP will be paid – it is the responsibility of the Virtual School Head of the placing authority to ensure that PPP is allocated for all their school aged children and young people in care no matter where they are educated.

The name and contact details of other Virtual School Heads can be requested from the Waltham Forest Virtual School team.