

West Sussex Virtual School

Pupil Premium Policy

2022/2023

Introduction

This policy is written with reference to the following Department for Education (DfE) documents:

- [Pupil Premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2012-2022](#)
- [Pupil Premium: Virtual School Heads responsibilities \(2015\)](#)
- [Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after: statutory guidance for local authorities \(2018\)](#)
- [The designated teachers for looked-after and previously looked after children. Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities \(2018\)](#)

Principles

- West Sussex County Council has a strong ethos of corporate parenting and everyone has the highest aspirations for the children we care for.
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for managing the pupil premium plus for all the children cared for by West Sussex County Council wherever they may live
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for allocating pupil premium plus to schools and alternative providers as appropriate
- Allocation of pupil premium plus will be made on a needs basis as identified in the PEP (personal education plan)
- Pupil premium plus is to be used to improve the attainment of the children we care for and close the attainment gap their peers
- The impact of the pupil premium plus will be reviewed termly through the PEPs and will be overseen by the Virtual School Head.
- Pupil premium plus is not a personal budget for the young people. The Virtual School Head will manage the pupil premium plus for the benefit of the cohort of children we care for and according to the needs of the children.

Allocation

For 2022-2023 the DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2410 per child looked after. The Virtual School will allocation the pupil premium plus based on the needs of the individual children as identified in the PEP. The amount of pupil premium plus received by each school will vary and this will reflect the range of circumstances that our children face. These may include but are not limited to:

- Children who are new into care may be significantly behind their peers due to a fragmented education history and may need a series of interventions to re-engage with learning
- Children in care have experienced trauma, abuse, and neglect. Their reactions to these experiences may be delayed and difficult to predict
- Children and young people with attachment difficulties may need additional support to help them to trust people and form strong relationships with their peers
- Some young people in more stable placements may have received lots of interventions/support which has helped them catch up and they may not currently need as much support.

Pupil premium plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already allocated by the school to support the child or those within the wider school cohort. The Virtual School will not pay for an intervention or activity which is free at the point of delivery to all other children in a school or setting.

Therefore, pupil premium plus cannot be used to:

- Fund services identified in an EHCP
- Provide a statutory service to children such as statutory assessment or core education provision
- Fund services that are funded by the local authority through other means such as school uniform, school meals or transport to school.

Centrally Retained Funds

Every year a percentage of the pupil premium plus grant will be retained by the Virtual School Head to deliver a wider range of support and interventions. These may include:

- Monitoring the attendance and achievements of our children
- Provision of the ePEP system
- Awards and events
- Tuition for children awaiting educational placements
- A CPD programme for designated teachers and whole school communities.
- Group projects for schools supporting our children
- Whole cohort access to resources

Pupil Premium Plus and the PEP:

The PEP is a key document to plan for how pupil premium plus will be spend and therefore the role of the designated teacher is crucial in ensuring the PEP is of a high quality and provides the information below:

- The views of the child/ young person and how these will be addressed
- Prior and current attainment data along with robust progress data to determine whether the child is on track
- Attendance data
- Education needs as identified through the analysis of data and wider knowledge of the child
- Intended outcomes must be clear and SMART targets for improvements must be set
- Interventions supported by the pupil premium plus must be evidence based and in the best interests of the child
- Costings must be provided for interventions and clear timescales given for implementation and review
- The impact of interventions must be reviewed at subsequent PEP meetings and outcomes clearly recorded.

Social workers, foster carers and others may have a valuable contribution to make via the PEP meetings. However, the overriding principle is that pupil premium plus must focus on improving educational outcomes. This will be based on the school's assessment of the child's current

attainment and progress and understanding of what is required to take next steps and pursue their aspirations.

Early Years and Pupil Premium Plus

Please refer to the [Early Years funding: 2021-2022](#) government document for further information.

Post 16

The Virtual School does not receive any direct funding for young people in care who access post-16 provision. However, we recognise the need to continue to support our children with their education and will look at provide funding on a discretionary basis. Requests for additional support need to be made through the submission of a completed PEP and will be reviewed by the Virtual School Head.

Pupil Premium Plus for Children Attending West Sussex Schools from other Local Authorities

All local authorities can set their own policy and practice for the distribution of pupil premium plus. West Sussex education providers that have children cared for by other Local Authorities must contact the relevant Virtual School Head to request their pupil premium arrangements. The West Sussex Virtual School team will be able to provide contact details for other local authorities upon request.