

# The HOPE Virtual School Pupil Premium Plus Policy

*Bristol Policy for Pupil Premium+ 2023*

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

Pupil premium 2022 to 2023: conditions of grant for local authorities (updated 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2023)  
[Pupil premium 2022 to 2023: conditions of grant for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pupil-premium-2022-to-2023-conditions-of-grant-for-local-authorities)

Pupil Premium Overview (updated 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023)  
[Pupil premium: overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pupil-premium-overview)

Pupil Premium Virtual School Heads Responsibilities (updated 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 2015)  
[Pupil premium: virtual school heads' responsibilities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities)

The Role of the Designated Teacher (updated 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018)  
[Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children)

## **Key points about Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care**

Since April 2014, children in care of the local authority have been allocated additional funding called Pupil Premium Plus. The grant must be managed by the Virtual School Head and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap” as identified in the Personal Education Plan [PEP] in consultation with the Designated Teacher, Social Worker, Carer and Virtual School.

The pupil premium plus is released directly to the local authority and is currently at a rate of £2410.00 (£2530 from April 2023) for each child attending school in Year Reception through to Year 11.

Children are eligible for this funding as soon as they enter care. The Headteacher of the Virtual School is responsible for the allocation of pupil premium plus for children in care for who Bristol is responsible, even if they live in another authority.

The overall grant allocated to the local authority is calculated on a per capita basis, but as explained in the Department for Education guidance, given that children and young people in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care it is not a personal budget for individual children.

It is the role of the Virtual School Head to ensure that the budget is managed to benefit their cohort of children according to their needs.

Pupil Premium funding for CIC is different and separate from the Pupil Premium provided to schools based on census returned relating to children in receipt of free school meals or from service families.

## **Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children**

In addition, and through a separate process, Children previously in care who have an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order are entitled to Pupil Premium plus/Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Schools access this funding directly via the school census following declaration by the family and evidence of the child's status and EYPP is evaluated on the submission of the early years headcount or the school census.

The DfE expects the money to be spent on "supporting children emotionally, socially and educationally, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs" and states that it expects schools to work in partnership with parents/guardians regarding how the funding is used.

This grant, its allocation and use in schools is outside the remit of the Virtual School, however we do provide advice on how the funding can be used to benefit previously looked after children.

## **Early Years Pupil Premium Plus**

Children who are looked after in the early years are entitled to the early year's pupil premium (EYPP) in the first full term after their third birthday until the child starts reception.

In Bristol, this funding is evaluated on the submission of the early years headcount or the school census with confirmation from the Virtual School and paid directly to settings in the same way as other EYPP.

## **Post 16 Pupil Premium**

Currently children who are in care post 16 do not receive any pupil premium from the DfE. We are, therefore, keen to ensure that bursaries, grants and any other pockets of funding that can be identified through multi-agency working is used effectively to support young people in their education, employment or training or to help them to re-engage. These discussions should form part of the PEP meetings held.

## **Allocation of Pupil Premium Plus for Children in Care to Bristol City Council**

When a child comes into care, the first Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting must be held within 20 school days. At this meeting there will be a discussion on how Pupil Premium Plus can be used to support that individual child's progress and attainment, on top of the school's own core offer for pupils and EHCP funding where appropriate.

Normally the Designated Teacher at the school will lead these meetings. Wherever possible a member of The HOPE Virtual School will also attend this meeting to provide advice and guidance.

The allocation of Pupil Premium Plus from Bristol is based on a 'child's needs-driven model', identified through the outcomes and actions outlined in the PEP. The HOPE Advocates are responsible for the monitoring process of all PEPs.

Schools can claim up to £650 three times a year (once per big term). The funding of up to £650 per term must be requested through the PEP form (ePEP) and will be paid termly to schools at the end of each long term.

Pupil Premium Plus will only be paid where a plan is moderated by The HOPE Virtual School to be good or better.

**In order to be judged good or better the PEP must:**

- Identify the learning needs and progress of the child
- Have a clear action plan to address the needs and promote progress with specific (SMART) targets
- Demonstrate how the Pupil Premium Plus allocated will be used to support the child's learning, increasing engagement and improving rates of progress and academic outcomes as outlined in the child's targets
- Provide details of the impact of allocated Pupil Premium Plus spent to date
- Is clear, specific and comprehensive, especially for readers who are not education specialists

**Premium for CIC must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:**

- Rates of academic progress and academic achievement
- 'Catching up' – addressing lost learning
- Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child has a specific interest or talent
- Attendance
- Inclusion [by reducing internal and external exclusion]
- Support for social, emotional and mental health needs linked to education
- Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider

The impact of all interventions must be reviewed and documented within the PEP. Any planned intervention should be intended to bring about positive difference within the classroom.

**The Virtual School allocates the funding it retains to provide additional support, for example:**

- Extra funding where the school makes a good case for additional support
- Transition support for children and young people moving to new schools in line with long-term care plans or foster placement changes.
- Support for children in care not in education and in need of additional support to return to full time education.
- Training for designated teachers and other staff who work in schools.

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

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

- to fund services that should be provided via an Education Health and Care Plan or to meet costs that other SEND funding should be supporting
- other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health providers
- to fund therapeutic interventions that do not have a demonstrable link to improving academic outcomes that can be monitored via the PEP process
- to fund transport to/from a child's named education provision
- where the interventions to be put in place are already available to any learner with the same specific needs in the school/setting
- where the school's or carer's own funding is otherwise provided to cover the cost of the interventions/resources
- where there is no evidence of engagement, impact or movement towards the intended outcomes provided via the PEP reviews
- where the PEP does not meet Virtual School requirements

## **Recoupment policy**

We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the child's needs as set out in the PEP

## **Allocation of grant to independent schools and residential providers**

Pupil Premium Plus will not usually be paid to independent specialist schools or residential providers because these are already funded at a high level by central budgets on the basis that the provider is being funded to meet all identified needs.

Payments can be made to meet individual needs in exceptional circumstances provided this is discussed agreed and documented with The HOPE Virtual School advocate.

**In certain circumstances schools can apply for additional funding from the Virtual School to support unexpected events or exceptional needs in discussion with The HOPE Advocate.**

Examples of additional costs:

- Children who have to move in or out of authority in an emergency
- Children placed in other LAs
- Children who are at risk of school exclusion and placement breakdown
- Children who may need additional tuition or support to increase progress and attainment which is agreed in the PEP meeting or with The HOPE advocate.

**Policy Written: Feb 2023  
To be reviewed annually.**