



Royal Wootton Bassett Academy

Pupil Premium Policy

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Date ratified:	September 2022, Reviewed September 2024
Next Review Date:	September 2025
Version Number:	8
Reviewed by:	LGB

Relevant Legislation

The Equality Act / The Disability Discrimination Act

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1. Rationale

- To improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and other vulnerable groups of pupils.
- To ensure appropriate pastoral support for pupils from Service families.
- To adhere to Department for Education guidelines and advice on expenditure and accountability of the Pupil Premium (PP), including the Service Pupil Premium (SPP).

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide background information about the PP grant so that all members of the school community understand its purpose and which pupils are eligible.
- Set out how the school will make decisions on PP spending.
- Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing the PP in school.

3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the following documentation.

- **DfE Pupil premium 2023-24: conditions of grant for academies and free schools** (last updated 21st November 2023) [Pupil premium 2023-24: conditions of grant for academies and free schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pupil-premium-2023-24-conditions-of-grant-for-academies-and-free-schools)
- **DfE Pupil Premium: Overview Guidance document** (last updated 23rd October 2023) [Pupil premium: overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pupil-premium-overview)
- **DfE Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders document** (March 2023) [Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/consultations/using-pupil-premium-guidance-for-school-leaders)
- **EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) Guide to the Pupil Premium (September 2023)** [The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.eef.org.uk/guidance/the-eef-guide-to-the-pupil-premium)

4. Purpose of the Grant

The Pupil Premium grant is allocated to publicly funded academies for 2 separate objectives:

- raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to help them reach their potential
- providing support for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces

5. Eligible Pupils

The Pupil Premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils in Years 7 to 11.

The following groups are eligible for PP:

- 5.1 **Ever6 and Free School Meals** – Pupils recorded in the most recent January school census who are known to have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of

grant guidance). This includes pupils first known to be eligible for free school meals in the most recent January census. It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches. It does include eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

- 5.2 **Looked After Children (LAC)** – Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales.
- 5.3 **Previously-Looked After Children (PLAC)** – Pupils recorded in the most recent January census and alternative provision census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

The portion of PP grant funding for LAC and PLAC pupils is referred to as ‘pupil premium plus’ (PP+).

The portion of PP grant for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces is referred to as service pupil premium (SPP). SPP is allocated to academies based on the number of pupils who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 5.4 **Ever6 Service Children** – Pupils:
- Where one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces, including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service - this includes pupils with a parent who is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England
 - Who have been registered as a ‘service child’ on any school census in the past 6 years
 - Where one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- 5.5 **Other Vulnerable** – The school recognises and acknowledges that not all vulnerable students are in receipt or identified as eligible for PP. As set out in the conditions of the grant, the school of may use a portion of PP funding to support pupils who do not meet any of the PP eligibility criteria where we deem it beneficial to do so.

6. Use of the Grant

The government recommend that school should use their PP grant in line with the ‘menu of approaches’ set by the Department for Education (DfE). The menu of approaches is set out in the *Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders* document.

The menu has been developed in line with the Education Endowment Foundation’s (EEF’s) 3-tiered approach to help schools allocate spending across the following 3 key areas:

- **support high-quality teaching**, such as staff professional development
- **provide targeted academic support**, such as tutoring
- **tackle non-academic barriers** to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing

In line with the EEF’s recommended approach, RWBA will particularly prioritise

high-quality teaching, though the exact balance of spending between tiers will vary depending on the specific needs of each cohort. By improving teaching, the school will inevitably benefit non-eligible pupils as well.

For PLAC, it is the responsibility of the academy to ensure that their use of PP grant addresses the specific needs of PLAC attending the academy.

For LAC, it is the responsibility of the Virtual School Head in the local authority that looks after the child, in consultation with the child's school, to ensure that PP grant is used to support the child's educational needs. This should be in accordance with their personal education plans and in line with the menu of approaches.

The primary purpose of SPP is to enable schools to offer pastoral support to eligible pupils during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact of family mobility or parental deployment on service children. It can be used to help improve the academic progress of eligible pupils if schools deem this to be a priority.

School leaders are best placed to assess their pupils' needs and use the funding to improve attainment, drawing on evidence of effective practice. PP is not a personal budget for individual pupils and schools are not required to spend all of the allocated grant on eligible pupils.

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy aims to ensure that pupil premium money is used effectively in supporting eligible students by:

- Considering the context of the school and the main challenges or barriers the pupils face in each year group to ensure personalisation.
- Use evidence to inform the decisions on PP spending, for example, by using evidence-based research and resources from the Education Endowment Foundation, learning from what works well in the school and collaboration with other schools in the Trust.
- Address a wide range of needs and take group and individual needs into account.
- Engage with parents to take their views on the needs of their child into account.

Some examples of how the school may use the grant include, but are not limited to:

- Providing extra one-to-one or small group support.
- Running catch-up sessions before and during school, for example, for children who need extra help with maths or literacy.
- Providing extra tuition where needed, for example, ahead of national assessments such as GCSEs.
- Funding educational trips and visits.
- Funding of extra-curricular activities via Success Lounge and music tuition.
- Employing staff to lead on Pupil Premium and support key areas of focus.

In line with the DfE guidance, the school will publish an annual statement on our website which presents an overview of the PP strategy and demonstrates that our use of the funding meets the requirements of the conditions of grant.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Head of Pupil Premium

The headteacher and senior leadership team are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up-to-date and ensuring that it is implemented across the school.
- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces.
- Planning PP spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate.
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the PP to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding.
- Monitoring key pastoral measures to identify and reduce barriers to learning.
- Reporting on the impact of PP spending to the governing board on an ongoing basis.
- Publishing the school's PP strategy on the school website each academic year by 31st December 2023, as required by the DfE.
- Publishing information on the school's use of the PP on the school website, as required by our funding agreement and in line with guidance from the DfE.
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment.

7.2 Governors

The governing board is responsible for:

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of the policy.
- Ensuring the school is using PP funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant.
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the PP, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding.
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the PP.
- Challenging the headteacher to use the PP in the most effective way.
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community.

7.3 Other School Staff

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis.
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the PP.
- Following guidance from the PP team around best practice to support the progress of PP students.
- Contribute to the school PP strategy where necessary

- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the PP and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team.
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff.

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