

Accessing funding to improve educational outcomes of previously looked after children and young people (PLAC)

Frequently asked questions: Schools

What are the Virtual School's statutory duties towards previously looked after children?

Virtual Schools have a statutory duty (from September 2018) to provide advice, guidance and information to schools, parents and a range of professionals around improving the educational outcomes of children previously looked after. They are not corporate parents for this group of children.

Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) for children previously looked after.

How do we access PP+ for PLAC?

On entry to school please ensure that your school registration form clearly ask if the child has been previously looked after. Publicise in your newsletter regularly that additional funding is available via PP+ funding. It is up to the parents/guardian to declare. Ensure you are satisfied that the child is eligible for PLAC PP+ - take a copy of the court order or sign and date to show that you have seen it. This information is then gathered on the January census and the funding will come into your budget in April (currently £2300 per child)

Which Previously LAC pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)?

Children in School Years R to 11 who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, child arrangements order, or a residence order are eligible to attract the Pupil Premium Plus funding.

What is the purpose of Pupil Premium Plus?

The DfE takes the view that many cares experienced children from the groups described above will have experienced grief and loss and will have had traumatic experiences in their early lives. The majority of these children entered care due to abuse or neglect. Their needs do not change overnight, and they do not stop being vulnerable just because they are in a loving home. Their early life experiences will have a lasting effect emotionally, socially and academically. The purpose of the Pupil Premium Plus is to raise educational attainment and close the gap between previously LAC students and their peers.

What are the conditions of Pupil Premium Grant? Please

refer to this document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2019-to-2020/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2019-to-2020>

When does Pupil Premium Plus funding start and finish?

Any child attending school from the start of Reception Year to the end of Year 11 is eligible to receive previously LAC PP+. Children who are electively home educated or are post-16 students are currently not eligible for previously LAC PP+. To be eligible, a child needs to

have been previously in care at some point in England or Wales, and once they have left care, they would need to have been either adopted, subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangements Order (CAO). Children who return home to live with their parents or relatives (outside these 3 categories) **do not** qualify for previously LAC premium.

Can we use the Pupil Premium plus for providing school uniform?

It is expected that a parent would provide school uniform for their child. If the family is experiencing financial difficulties and are unable to provide a school uniform for their child, then they should seek advice from their child's school.

Should our previously LAC students be entitled to Free School Meals?

Parents/ Guardians can check if they meet the criteria for receiving Free School Meals by using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Are children previously looked after entitled to FSM Ever 6 PP?

Generally, they are not entitled to FSM Ever 6 PP as they cannot receive both pupil premiums. Therefore, the PP for Previously LAC will take precedent.

Should the Pupil Premium be used for school trips and outings?

It is expected that a parent will provide the financial support for additional curricular activities. If a Parent / Guardian's financial situation is unable to support the cost of a trip, then please discuss with them as you would any other parent in a similar situation.

Do schools have to tell parents what they spend the Pupil Premium plus funding on?

The DFE consider it to be good practice for schools to work in partnership with parents, and to have transparent processes in place. The use of the EPAC will support the evidence for the decisions taken around Pupil Premium funding.

Is it ok to buy equipment so that all the children in the school benefit from it?

As long as you have identified how the child will benefit from the equipment purchase this is acceptable. However please be fair in your assessment of how much of their funding is to be used.

Can we use the Pupil Premium plus funding for the child to join out of school clubs?

As long as you can identify how this benefit the child's academic progress and attainment. Use of the EPAC will support you in making these decisions.

What school types attract the Pupil Premium plus funding for children who are PLAC?

All state funded education providers may claim the pupil premium for children adopted from care and for children who have left care under a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (formally known as a residence order). This includes children in alternative provision such as an independent provision, or an education centre.

Any other queries then please email: anita.farrant@telford.gov.uk