

The purpose of Pupil Premium

Evidence shows that disadvantaged children generally face additional challenges in reaching their potential at school.

They often do not perform as well as other children, which can have life-long impacts.

The Pupil Premium grant is additional funding given to schools to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Governance responsibilities

As governors and trustees, you must hold school leaders to account for:

- How they spend the Pupil Premium.
- The impact of spending on targeted groups.
- The attainment and progress of eligible pupils compared with others.

We ask that each school has a link governor for disadvantaged children. There is also a Trustee assigned with this responsibility.

This article will introduce Pupil Premium to you, and explain the main governance responsibilities.

Terms used in the article

Ever 6 FSM These are children that have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years.

LAC, Looked After Children, refers to children who have been in local authority care for at least one day. Previously-LAC refers to those who have left local authority care, perhaps via adoption.

Ever 6 Service children, are those who have at least one parent in the armed forces at any time in the last six years, or has lost a parent who was serving in the military.

What are the annual grants?

This table covers the rates in the financial year 2022-2023.

Primary-aged pupils recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£1,385
Secondary-aged pupils recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£985
LAC and previously-LAC	£2,410
Pupils recorded as Ever 6 service children	£320

What can Pupil Premium be spent on?

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools are not required to spend all the allocated grant on eligible pupils. It is for school leaders to decide how to spend the pupil premium.

Evidence indicates that these are effective strategies, especially the first one on the list:

- High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.
- Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.
- Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support.

Focused strategy

The government advice to school leaders emphasises the importance of identifying the specific challenges faced by the disadvantaged and vulnerable children in the school.

When governors are reviewing the strategy, consider this point and ask to see examples of where this has been included.

Know your school and the strategy

- Be familiar with the Pupil Premium Strategy Statement and review it each term.
- Ensure the staff responsible for Pupil Premium attend a Local Governing Body meeting at least once a year to discuss the progress and performance of disadvantaged children.
- Challenge the allocation of the Pupil Premium grant if there is no clear audit trail showing appropriate use of the resources.
- Challenge the allocation of the Pupil Premium grant if the impact is not apparent.

Know your school and the data

- Know Pupil Premium facts for your school, such as how many pupils attract the premium and how this figure compares nationally.
- Understand the pupil performance data that shows the progress of different groups within the school.
- Ask for evidence of how children eligible for the Pupil Premium grant are progressing compared with others in the same ability group, or otherwise comparable.
- Review the spending of the Pupil Premium grant, making sure the spending decisions are in line with the plan, and linked to outcomes.

Be accountable

The governors must publish the school's Pupil Premium Strategy Statement on the school website annually by 31st December.

The report must explain how the school is using their funding, and the impact it has on the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Link governor responsibilities

We recommend that you have a discussion once a term with the senior leader responsible for Pupil Premium, with a follow-up discussion at your governor meeting. It is important that you report to your board after a visit or discussion.

The board retains overall responsibility for making sure that funding is spent on improving attainment for eligible pupils, and all governors and trustees share that responsibility.

The link trustee will work with link governors to gain insight across the trust. As link governor, consider how you can engage with this process and with link governors in other schools in the trust.

Monitor provision

Ask questions of school leaders during board meetings, committee meetings, and school visits.

What are we spending the money on, and why?

- What is the Pupil Premium spent on?
- How do you decide what interventions or activities to spend the Pupil Premium on?
- How is this informed by research evidence?
- How do you make sure the Pupil Premium grant is spent appropriately on the intended target groups?
- What are the main challenges in the use of the Pupil Premium, and how are you working to overcome them?

Are we spending the money wisely?

- How do you monitor the progress of eligible pupils so you can see whether the Pupil Premium spending is having an effect?

- How does the attainment of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium as a group compare with others?
- What impact is the Pupil Premium funding having?
- Are our strategies to improve attainment for pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium set out in a costed action plan?

Training

The link governor and link trustee must take Pupil Premium training, and keep their knowledge current. Some options are:

- There is an NGA Learning Link module on Pupil Premium.
Note: all governors and trustees have access to NGA Learning link. Please email for help if you need it.
- There is a Pupil Premium course on the Key for School Governors, which you can complete it in bite-size chunks.
- Sefton Governor Services may offer training, and they issue a schedule each term.

Required and recommended reading

Please visit this link on Gov.UK which contains an overview of Pupil Premium and other supporting documents.

[Pupil Premium](#)

For any comments or questions, please contact

governance@southportlearningtrust.org

Website

<https://www.southportlearningtrust.org/>



Enhancing Governance

Governance and Pupil Premium

Article 5 in a series

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