

Background on Pupil Premium and Adoption

What is the Pupil Premium Plus?

Pupil premium funding is additional money given to schools to raise the attainment of eligible pupils and narrow the gap between their attainment and their peers. The Pupil Premium Plus is the name of pupil premium funding aimed at looked after children. All looked after children, children adopted from care and those who leave care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order in reception to year 11 classes will attract this extra funding.

The Pupil Premium Plus will be set at £1,900 which is more than double the £900 rate in 2013-14. Pupil premium funding for looked after children pupils will rise from £40m in 2013-14 to £100m in 2014-15.

Why have you introduced a Pupil Premium Plus?

Since the introduction of the pupil premium in April 2011, we have included looked after children (LAC) pupils in our eligibility criteria. The PP+ is an extension of these arrangements as from 2014-15 we will be providing PP+ to more LAC pupils and the rate of funding they attract will be much higher. Looked after children perform less well at school than their peers. We are reforming the care system so that every looked after child can reach their full potential.

When will it be introduced?

From April 2014.

Which adopted children are eligible for this funding?

All children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 are eligible.

How will schools flag adopted children to ensure they attract the funding?

Parents will have to self-declare that their child is adopted. Documentation to show the child has been adopted from care will be needed in the form of a copy of the Adoption Order or a letter from the local authority that originally looked after the child.

Why are you extending the Pupil Premium to children adopted from care and those on Special Guardianship and Residence Orders?

All adopted children will have experienced grief and loss and many of them will have had traumatic experiences in their early lives; 70% of those adopted in 2012-13 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 experiences in early life can have a lasting impact which

can affect the child many years after adoption. We therefore believe that teachers and schools have a vital role to play in helping these children emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support, particularly pastoral support, and to raise their attainment and awareness of their needs.

Do schools have control of the Pupil Premium funding for adopted children?

Yes, the funding will go directly to the child's school and it is up to the school how they spend the money. We would expect schools to use the funding to help these children 'catch up' emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support and raising awareness of their needs.