

FAQ from parents regarding Previously Looked After Children

These questions are based on the most frequent queries received by the Virtual School. You may also find these leaflets helpful:

- [Key Questions for Primary Schools](#) (PAC UK)
- [Key Questions for Secondary Schools](#) (PAC UK)

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

Virtual Schools have a statutory duty 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.

My school does not seem to understand the needs of my child. What can I do?

School staff are very welcome to contact the Virtual School for advice and support. Parents are also welcome to email the Virtual School if they need advice or guidance on school matters. Email: virtualschool@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone: 01609 533231.

How do I support my child with transition to primary or secondary school?

We would recommend that parents discuss their child's specific needs with the school staff before they start a new school. There should be a good transition plan in place with plenty of opportunity for the child to make visits and connections with staff in the new school. Pre-school staff and school staff should liaise with parents around supporting the transition. Most primary and secondary schools have transition arrangements in place to support the move from primary school to secondary school. This will usually include opportunities for the summer term for the child to spend time at the secondary school, and have additional visits to get to know other students, and be introduced to key members of staff. If you feel further support is needed, speak to the child's primary school about how they can help and also make contact with the secondary school to explain your concerns and how to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Some parts of the curriculum can be very traumatic for my child- how can I work with the school to ensure this does not happen?

If you feel a child may be affected by particular areas of the school curriculum, it may be useful at the beginning of each academic year to talk to the class teacher or Head of Year to discuss any potentially difficult areas of the curriculum. Some common areas that Adopters highlight include topic work on families, family trees, WW2 evacuation, writing personal biographies, and any subject that includes an element of grief or loss.

Questions regarding Pupil Premium for children post/previously Looked After Children

Which Post LAC pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium?

Children in School from Reception to Year 11 who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order are eligible to attract the Pupil Premium funding. The Virtual School does not oversee the allocation or devolution of Pupil Premium funding to these children.

What is the purpose of Pupil Premium?

The DfE takes the view that many care 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 is to raise educational attainment and close the gap between Post LAC students and their peers.

What are the conditions of the Pupil Premium Grant?

Please refer to this document Pupil premium: conditions of grant 2020 to 2021 which can be found [here](#).

How does the school access the Post LAC Pupil Premium?

To secure the Pupil Premium funding for adopted children and those subject to a special guardianship order or a child arrangements order, it is the responsibility of the school to prompt parents and guardians that will have needed to inform the school about their child's circumstances in time for the school to record the child's status on the January School Census. This will involve providing supporting evidence, for example, the Adoption (Court) Order. School must identify and indicate on the census that the child is eligible in order to receive the funding.

When does Pupil Premium funding start and finish?

Any child attending school from the start of Reception Year to the end of Year 11 is eligible to receive Post LAC Pupil Premium. Children who are electively home educated or are post-16 students are currently not eligible for Post LAC Pupil Premium. 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 post LAC premium.

Can we use the Pupil Premium 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.

Are children previously looked after entitled to Free School Meals (Ever 6) Pupil Premium?

Generally they are not entitled to Free School Meals (Ever 6) Pupil Premium as they cannot receive both pupil premiums. Therefore the Pupil Premium for Post 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 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.

What school types attract the Pupil Premium funding for children who are Post LAC?

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.