

FAQ from schools 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.

Do the Virtual School offer Training for schools on dealing with PLAC?

Our regular training events for Designated Teachers will provide advice and guidance on effective Pupil Premium spend for children Previously in Care. For more details contact the Virtual School. Email: virtualschool@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone: 01609 533231.

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 SGO or RO/CAO, **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. It is suggested by the Virtual School that you include a question regarding previously in care status both on your admissions form and at regular intervals when requesting information regarding Ever 6 FSM eligibility. 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.

How much is the Pupil Premium funding?

This Pupil Premium funding, known as Post LAC, is paid at the start of the financial year as a single indicative amount. Following data verification by the EFA, an adjustment is made for actual funded numbers later in the summer term. The amount equates to £2,345 per previously looked-after child.

Can the Pupil Premium be used 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 FSM Ever 6 PP?

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.

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 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.

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.