

Newbold and Tredington C of E Primary School and Day Nursery



Creating a chance to SHINE everyday

Warwickshire Virtual School for Children Looked After Pupil Premium Plus Policy

This policy was ratified: November 2023

And will be reviewed: November 2026

Signed by Headteacher: Samantha Welsby

Children looked after are one of the groups of pupils that attract Pupil Premium Plus funding. This is additional funding provided to help improve the attainment of children looked after and close the attainment gap between them and their peers. According to the conditions of grant, it is the Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) who manages the Pupil Premium Plus grant for all children looked after of statutory school age. This policy explains how the VSH will allocate the grant and evaluate its impact.

Principles

Warwickshire's Virtual School recognises that schools are in the best position to make use of resources in order to raise the attainment of children looked after. Accordingly, the Virtual School will allocate funding to all eligible schools each term. This money will be paid in arrears and **on the condition that there is a current, high-quality PEP in place** which outlines the additional needs of the child and the appropriate evidence-based interventions planned to meet them.

As outlined in the DfE guidance, the Pupil Premium Plus is not a personal budget for individual children. Schools may choose to use the funding for the benefit of their cohort of children looked after/children previously looked after or to allocate an amount of funding to an individual to support their needs.

The Virtual School will spend the remainder of Pupil Premium Plus receipts on wider initiatives to reduce the attainment gap, which will support young people with intensive support needs and contribute to a stronger system where schools work collaboratively to develop expertise and share good practice. This includes training for Designated Teachers, developing Attachment Aware schools, providing careers advice for all Year 11-13 children looked after and commissioning support from external professionals.

Pupil Premium Plus for children previously looked after is allocated by the local authority through the January census. Children previously looked after are those who immediately after being in the care of the local authority became subject to an adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order.

Warwickshire does not allocate Pupil Premium Plus to those independent schools and education providers where the child's individual education placement is funded by the Local Authority specifically for their individual need.

Early Years Pupil Premium Plus

Children looked after from age 3 years and 1 term are entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium Plus, which is currently £300 per year, when in attendance at pre-school, nursery class or day care provision.

Appropriate use of Pupil Premium Plus funding

Pupil Premium Plus funds must be used to close the gap in attainment and progress between children looked after and their peers. Warwickshire Virtual School believes that for many children looked after, the social, emotional and mental health needs of the child are the single biggest barrier to learning. Interventions designed to address these needs should be considered. The Virtual School has identified examples of how the money can be used effectively.

Suggested uses

- Staff development, e.g. training on attachment needs, trauma, resilience
- Expert assessment and/or advice, e.g. from an Educational Psychologist
- Extra activities designed to motivate and re-engage young people
- Counselling or mentoring
- Therapeutic support e.g. play therapy, LEGO therapy
- Additional learning opportunities in school holidays e.g. revision days
- Enrichment experiences focused on developing emotional wellbeing
- Contributions towards residential trips
- One-to-one tuition, e.g. in Maths and English

Inappropriate use

Pupil Premium Plus funds should be used to close the gap in attainment. The money should not be used to replace funds which would otherwise be provided from the main school budget or by the foster carer. Hence, the Virtual School will not normally support the use of Pupil Premium Plus on the following:

- Giving young people access to existing arrangements, e.g. homework club
- School trips, which are effectively part of the curriculum
- School equipment e.g. stationery, DT food ingredients, laptops
- Contributing to the salaries of substantive staff (as interventions should be time-limited)
- Reduced class sizes
- School uniform

- School meals

Evaluation

The DT is responsible for evaluating the impact of interventions funded by the Pupil Premium Plus at least each term by looking at the progress the child has made. Where interventions are not leading to sufficient improvement, the professionals involved should consider what changes should be made to the support plan.

Whilst the Virtual School has the discretion to reallocate funding where it is not leading to the achievement gap being closed, it is hoped that this can be done in partnership with all colleagues supporting the child, including school staff, social worker and foster carer.

July 2019

Annexe A

*Working for
Warwickshire*



PEP features	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Completion of the ePEP	All sections of the ePEP are completed	Some information is missing which does not significantly compromise the impact of the plan	Important information is missing, compromising the impact of the plan, or it is not received within two weeks
The young person's views	The plan reflects the considered contribution of the young person	The voice of the young person is evident but the plan does not fully reflect all his/her views	There is insufficient evidence that the young person has contributed to the plan
Data	Current and past data is recorded, enabling precise and challenging academic targets to be set	Data is provided which enables progress to be evaluated and targets to be set, but some information is missing	Important data is missing or lacks sufficient precision
Previous targets	Previous targets are reviewed with the impact of interventions carefully evaluated, informing current plans	The plan shows that previous targets have been reviewed, influencing current plans	There is insufficient evidence that targets have been reviewed, so current support may be compromised
New targets	Targets related to the agreed areas for development are appropriately challenging, reflect personal and academic attainment and are SMART	The plan contains appropriate targets though they may be limited in scope or degree of challenge	No targets recorded or targets inappropriately formed or fail to provide sufficient challenge
Use of funding	The plan ensures that all additional funding, e.g. Pupil Premium Plus, is used well to bring about good progress	The plan identifies how extra funding can be used but its full potential is not exploited	The plan does not adequately explain how additional funding will be used
Overall quality	Most features of the plan are rated as "good"	Most features of the plan require improvement	One or more features of the plan are inadequate