



**Pupil Premium for permanently placed children (often referred to as Pupil Premium Plus, or PP+) was introduced in 2014 in recognition that children who have left care as a result of adoption, a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or a Care Arrangements Order (CAO) often need extra support and help in school as a result of their early experiences.**

### Who is eligible?

Pupil Premium plus is available for children from Reception to Year 11 in state schools in England, who were adopted or left care under a SGO or CAO from England or Wales. Children in independent schools or home education may be eligible if their education is funded by the Local Authority.

Extra funding is also available for children aged 3 and 4 in early years education, who meet the criteria. This is funded separately by the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), which is not covered in this guide.

### How much is available?

Pupil Premium Plus is currently £1900 per year, per eligible pupil. For adopted, SGO and CAO children, this is paid directly to the child's school.

### How is it accessed?

Unlike other Pupil Premium funding, parents of PP+ eligible children must self-declare their eligibility to their child's school, providing proof of their child's status, e.g. a photocopy of the adoption order. Parents may conceal sensitive information on such documentation if they wish.

The school must record this information in the spring census, which takes place in January. Therefore, it is

important that parents and guardians inform the school of their child's status well before the census.

Eligibility for PP+ is recorded under the census category 'Post looked after arrangements'. The DfE produces an annual guide to support schools in completing the census.

Even if you have declared your child's status, it is recommended that you verify that this is recorded on the school census. If your child changes school, you will need to declare their status again.

### Truth or Myth?

***"Children have to be eligible for free school meals to get PP+"***

**Myth:** There is no relationship between PP+ and free school meals. While the Pupil Premium grant for disadvantaged children uses free school meals as a measure, PP+ does not.

***"The Virtual School should administer PP+"***

**Myth:** Pupil Premium grants for looked after children are administered by the Virtual School, but the grants for adopted, SGO and CAO children are paid directly to schools.

# An Introduction to Pupil Premium Plus

## What is PP+ used for?

Unlike the Pupil Premium grant for disadvantaged children, which aims to reduce the attainment gap caused by economic disadvantage, Pupil Premium Plus is awarded in recognition that many adopted and permanently placed children need extra support in school because of the circumstances that led to them being placed into care, and later being adopted or being placed on a SGO or CAO.

Therefore, according to the DfE Q&A document on PP+ (2014), it ought to be spent on *“helping these children emotionally, socially and educationally by providing specific support, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs.”*

The same document states that *“it is not intended that the additional funding should be used to back-fill the general school budget nor . . . used to support other groups of pupils”*.

## Is PP+ ring-fenced?

Pupil Premium Plus is not ring-fenced either to the eligible cohort of children, or to an individual eligible child. This allows schools to, for instance, pool funds to employ a staff member to support a group of children which may include some who are not entitled to PP+, as long as the provision is primarily designed to support the PP+ cohort.

As PP+ is paid to the school according to the financial year (April to April) and not the academic year, pooling allows schools to account for shortfalls when a new eligible child starts school, and leftover funds when a child leaves.

## Who is accountable for PP+ spending?

Local Authority maintained schools must publish a strategy for their use of Pupil Premium as a whole on the school website, including the amount they received, what barriers eligible pupils face, and how they spend Pupil Premium to overcome these. They do not need to report on PP+ separately, although it is good practice to do so.

Academies and free schools must also publish information about their use of Pupil Premium. The specific content will depend on their individual

funding agreement.

PP+ (sometimes referred to as ‘post-LAC pupil premium’) is not monitored separately by Ofsted, but inspections of schools will explore the use of Pupil Premium as a whole, and the effectiveness of the school’s strategies and use of the funds.

While schools do not have a statutory duty to consult with parents on their use of PP+, there is a clear expectation in DfE guidance that *“schools will want to engage with them about the education of pupils on their roll,”* and will *“take particular advantage of this relationship with regards to formerly looked after children”*. Parents are best placed to identify their own child’s particular needs.

## Suggestions for effective use of PP+

**Training:** understanding the reasons for the challenges that many children face is vital for all staff. Effective training in attachment and the effects of early trauma helps to ensure that any further intervention or support is evidence-based.

**Therapeutic Interventions:** e.g. buying in creative arts therapy, sensory occupational therapy or play therapy for individuals or groups of children.

**Additional Staff:** providing 1:1 support, providing meet and greets at the start of the day, running nurture groups, running additional activities during break and lunchtime.

**Equipment and Facilities:** provision of a nurture room, calm boxes, sensory equipment, equipment for playground activities etc.

This list is not prescriptive or exhaustive. Many strategies, such as allowing children to bring in attachment objects from home, thorough transition planning, and effective home-school communications, cost nothing.

**Adoption UK** can provide support, advice, training and guidance to schools through our **schools membership scheme**. For more information:

[www.adoptionuk.org.uk/schools-campaign](http://www.adoptionuk.org.uk/schools-campaign)