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WEST SUSSEX VIRTUAL SCHOOL



# Pupil Premium Plus Policy

2025/2026



## Introduction

Funding for looked-after children

Virtual school heads are responsible for managing the funding given to local authorities for the children in their care. They work with schools to ensure the funding is used to help deliver the outcomes identified in the children's personal education plans, in line with the menu of approaches.

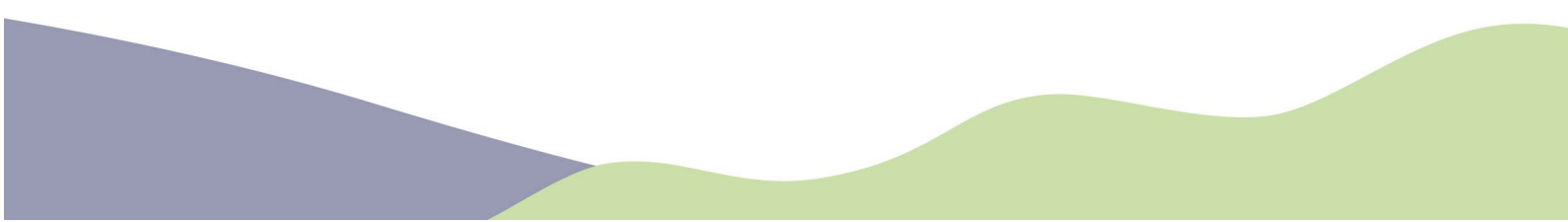
They can pass all the funding on to schools or retain some to fund activities that will benefit a group, or all, of the local authority's looked-after children.

## Principles

- West Sussex County Council has a strong ethos of corporate parenting and everyone has the highest aspirations for the children we care for
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for managing the pupil premium plus for all West Sussex County Council children we care for, wherever they may live
- The Virtual School Head is responsible for allocating pupil premium plus to schools and alternative providers as appropriate
- Allocation of pupil premium plus will be made on a needs basis as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Pupil premium plus is to be used to improve the attainment of the children we care for, and close the attainment gap between peers
- The impact of the pupil premium plus will be reviewed termly through the PEPs and will be overseen by the Virtual School Head
- Pupil premium plus is not a personal budget for the young people. The Virtual School Head will manage the pupil premium plus for the benefit of the cohort of children we care for and according to the needs of the children

## Allocation

For 2025 - 2026 the DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2630 per child looked after. The Virtual School will allocate pupil premium plus based on the needs of the individual children as identified in the PEP. The amount of pupil premium plus received by each school will vary, and this will reflect the range of circumstances that our children face. These may include but are not limited to:

- Children who are new into care may be significantly behind their peers due to a fragmented education history and may need a series of interventions to re-engage with learning
  - Children we care for may have experienced trauma, abuse, and neglect. Their reactions to these experiences may be delayed and difficult to predict
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- Children and young people with attachment difficulties may need additional support to help them to trust people and form strong relationships with their peers
- Some children we care for in more stable placements, may have received a lot of intervention/support, which has helped them catch up and they may not currently need as much support

Pupil premium plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already allocated by the school to support the child or those within the wider school cohort. The Virtual

School will not pay for an intervention or activity which is free at the point of delivery to all other children in a school or setting.

Therefore, pupil premium plus cannot be used to:

- Fund services identified in an EHCP
- Provide a statutory service to children such as statutory assessment or core education provision
- Fund services that are funded by the local authority through other means such as school uniform, school meals or transport to school.

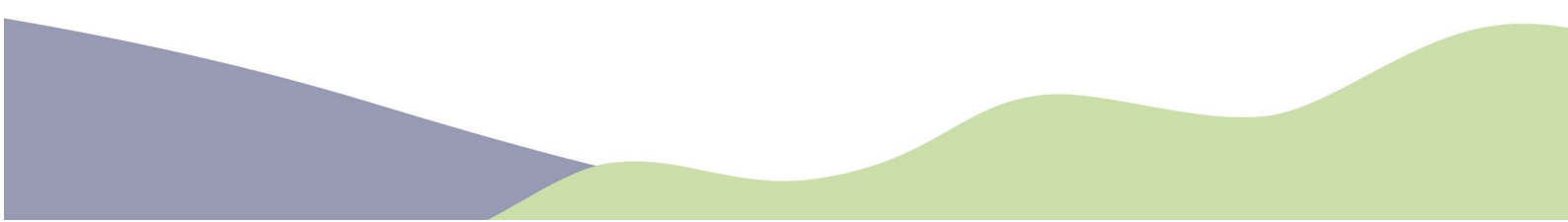
## Centrally retained funds

Funding for looked-after children

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Every year a percentage of the pupil premium plus grant will be retained by the Virtual School Head to deliver a wider range of support and interventions. These may include:

- Monitoring the attendance and achievements of our children
  - Provision of the ePEP system
  - Awards and events
  - Tuition for children awaiting educational placements
  - A CPD programme for designated teachers and whole school communities
  - Group projects for schools supporting our children
  - Whole cohort access to resources
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## Pupil Premium Plus and the PEP

The PEP is a key document to plan for how pupil premium plus will be spent, and therefore the role of the designated teacher is crucial in ensuring the PEP is of high quality, and provides the information below:

- The views of the child/ young person and how these will be addressed
- Prior and current attainment data along with robust progress data to determine whether the child is on track
- Attendance data
- Education needs as identified through the analysis of data and wider knowledge of the child
- Intended outcomes must be clear and SMART targets for improvements must be set
- Interventions supported by pupil premium plus must be evidence based and in the best interests of the child
- Costings must be provided for interventions and clear timescales given for implementation and review
- The impact of interventions must be reviewed at subsequent PEP meetings and outcomes clearly recorded.

Social workers, foster carers and others may have a valuable contribution to make via the PEP meetings. However, the overriding principle is that pupil premium plus must focus on improving educational outcomes. This will be based on the school's assessment of the child's

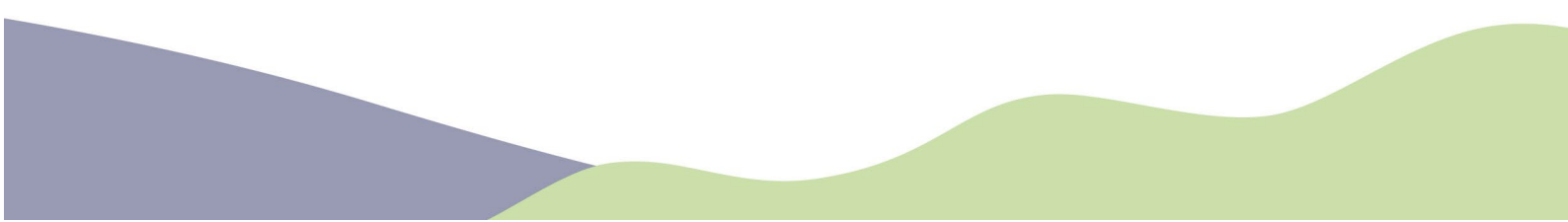
current attainment and progress and understanding of what is required to take next steps and pursue their aspirations.

## Early Years Pupil Premium Plus

Further guidance on the EYFS pupil premium can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2021-2022>

## Post 16

The Virtual School receives pupil premium plus funding for post 16 students. This funding will be used to improve access to further and higher education and to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training.



# Pupil Premium Plus for children attending West Sussex schools from other Local Authorities

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## Statutory documents

This policy is written with reference to the following Department for Education (DfE) documents:

Pupil Premium 2025-2026: [Pupil premium: conditions of grant for the 2025 to 2026 financial year - GOV.UK](#)

Pupil Premium: Virtual School Heads responsibilities (2015)  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>

Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after: statutory guidance for local authorities (2018)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683556/Promoting\\_the\\_education\\_of\\_looked-after\\_children\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf)

The designated teachers for looked-after and previously looked after children. Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities (2018)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683561/The\\_designated\\_teacher\\_for\\_looked-after\\_and\\_previously\\_looked-after\\_children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf)

