



**Penketh
High School**



PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

Pupil Premium Policy and Information 2025/2026

Policy owned by	J Thompson
Date Approved by Local Governing Body	September 2025
Signature of Chair to Local Governing Body	M Bryan
Signature of Academy Principal	J Carlin
Date of Next Review	August 2026

1. Aims & Rationale

The Pupil Premium (PP) is additional funding which is allocated to schools for two separate objectives:

- raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to help them reach their potential.
- providing support for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium conditions of grant guidance (2025/2026), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. It is also based on guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) on virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium, and the service premium.

In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on what academies schools must publish online.

3. Eligibility

The PP grant is allocated to academies based on the number of pupils in year groups reception to year 11, who are:

- recorded as eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (FSM Ever 6)
- previously looked-after children (PLAC): pupils who were looked after by a local authority or other state care immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority or other state care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order). This includes children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales

The PP grant is also allocated to local authorities based on the number of:

- looked-after children (LAC) supported by the authority, including those who attend academies. LAC are defined in the Children Act 1989 as those who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority. It is for the local authority to decide how much of this funding to pass on to the child's academy.

The portion of PP grant funding for LAC and PLAC pupils is often referred to as 'pupil premium plus' (PP+).

The portion of PP grant for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces is referred to as service pupil premium (SPP). It has been combined into PP payments to make it easier for schools to manage their spending, but the group of pupils that SPP is intended to support are not necessarily from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

SPP is allocated to academies based on the number of pupils who meet the following criteria:

Pupils are eligible if they meet any of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service) or is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England – and they have been registered as a 'service child' in the most recent autumn Department for Education (DfE) school census.

- they do not currently have 'service child' status but they have been registered as a 'service child' on any DfE school census in the past 6 years
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

4. Our Philosophy

Penketh High School is dedicated to using the Pupil Premium grant to remove the barriers to learning and development that deprivation might cause, including but not limited to those barriers which hinder academic progress and those which bring social, cultural, and practical disadvantages. It is our aim to close the attainment gaps between those students who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and the rest of our school's cohort, so that they achieve their potential and do not fall behind their peers. It is also our intention to close potential cultural gaps through our experiential education policy.

5. The Pupil Premium: Context and Financial Information

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to close the achievement gaps of our pupils.

Under The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, Schedule 4 there is specified information which must be to be published on a school's website. Section 9 of this regulation requires schools to publish *'The amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated'*.

We shall publish the above information on the 'Information' section of our school website. In meeting this requirement, we will observe our continuing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, so that individuals or groups of individuals, including children funded through the Service Premium cannot be identified.

The schools published reports can be found here:

- <https://www.penkethhigh.org/school-policies/pupil-premium/>

The DfE has given all schools the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as they see fit, based upon their knowledge of their pupils' needs.

'It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.'

However, we are accountable for the use of this additional funding.

We have received the following funding:

- 2020/2021: £232,595
- 2021/2022: £244,341
- 2022/2023: £249,600
- 2023/2024: £281,166

- 2024/2025: £322,225

The provisional allocation for 2025/2026 is £326,535.

The Pupil Premium Grant per-pupil rate for 2025/2026 is as follows:

Disadvantaged Pupils	Pupil Premium Per Pupil
Pupils in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 free school meals (FSM)	£1,515
Pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£1,075
Looked-after children (LAC)	£2,630
Previously looked-after children (PLAC)	£2,630
Service Children	Service Premium Per Pupil
Pupils in year groups reception to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence	£350

6. Objectives:

As a school we are committed to ensuring there is a clear focus on the progress individual pupils make in each lesson, and in particular the progress of those students supported by the pupil premium.

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used primarily for its intended purpose. We also recognise that the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) has an element of deprivation funding included in it to address the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.
- Use the latest evidence-based research¹ on proven strategies which work to close the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils. Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.
- Recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.
- Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.
- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium, by the school and governing body.
- Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not a homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account.

¹ Such as The Sutton Trust - Education Endowment Foundation, Teaching and Learning Toolkit <http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/> which is regularly updated. The two Ofsted reports – 'Pupil Premium', 20th September 2012, <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium> and the latest 11th February 2013, 'The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement' www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement and more recently Addressing Educational Disadvantage (The Essex Way) by Marc Rowland are examples of the research evidence and case studies of best practice which we have consulted.

- Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to close the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way. Examples of interventions and strategies used can be seen on the published reports. <https://www.penkethhigh.org/school-policies/pupil-premium/>
- Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.
- Use the Pupil Premium funding to aid the implementation of the Experiential Education policy.

7. Responsibilities

We expect all members of our school community, particularly staff and governors, to be committed to raising standards and closing the attainment gaps for our pupils.

The Principal and Extended Senior Leadership Team (ELT)

The Principal and ELT lead with specific responsibility for Pupil Premium funding are responsible for implementing this policy. They will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in the closing of our PP gap. They will also ensure that staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment. Through appraisal and line management, they will make sure closing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the school.

It will be the responsibility of the Principal to include the following information in the termly report to Governors:

- the progress made towards closing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils.
- an outline of the provision that has been made since the last report.
- an evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

The ELT lead with responsibility for Pupil Premium has day to day responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this policy and monitoring outcomes. They have expert and informed knowledge of evidence-based research of 'what works' and 'how' this works in closing the gaps. They know how to customise this research to fit the needs of our pupils and school context.

The ELT lead with responsibility for Pupil Premium will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a termly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. They will also check to see that it is providing value for money.

Teaching and Support Staff will:

- maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage with 'low ability'.
- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enables pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be closed, and improvements maintained.
- support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through adaptive teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind.
- keep up to date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in closing the gaps in attainment and achievement.
- We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and close the gaps.

Governing Body

Our governing body has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy along with its specific stated actions for closing the gaps is implemented.

Governors will appoint a Pupil Premium Link who will meet regularly with the Pupil Premium Lead.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of this policy but will update the Local Governing Body during the termly meeting.

Our governing body will keep our work in closing the gaps under review so that they can monitor the use of the Pupil Premium. In monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the governing body will take into account a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative (case studies, views, surveys etc.) data as evidence of impact.

At the end of the academic year, our Governors will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of closing the gaps in our school and the impact this has had.

Virtual school heads

Are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying the eligible looked after children and informing the local authority.
- Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked after children benefit without delay.
- Working with each looked after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how pupil premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way.
- Demonstrating how pupil premium funding is raising the achievement of looked after children.

Virtual school heads oversee promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

8. Key Contacts

- ELT Lead with Responsibility for Pupil Premium
- Governors