

Pupil Premium Overview 2014-2015

Pupil Premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. In the 2014 to 2015 financial year, pupil premium funding will rise to £2.5 billion.

Eligibility

Pupil premium funding is available to both mainstream and non-mainstream schools, such as special schools and pupil referral units. It is paid to schools according to the number of pupils who have been:

- registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years
- been in care for 6 months or longer

Funding for 2014 to 2015

- £1,300 for each eligible primary-aged pupil
- £935 for each eligible secondary-aged pupil

Eligibility for funding will be extended to all children who:

- have been looked after for 1 day or more
- were adopted from care on or after 30 December 2005 left care under:
 - a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005
 - a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991

Schools will indicate whether a pupils falls into one of the above categories when they complete their School Census and submit this information to the DfE in January of each year.

For the academic year 2013 to 2014, the DfE provided all schools with a list of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years. This list was available through a pupil premium download from the Key to Success website.

This data allowed schools to identify the pupils who have previously attracted pupil premium funding so that they can target support accurately. The data also helps estimate how much pupil premium funding schools will be allocated for budget planning purposes.

The DfE pays the pupil premium to local authorities in quarterly instalments. Local authorities then manage the funding and decide when to pass it on to the schools they fund.

Accountability

The DfE holds headteachers and school governing bodies accountable for the impact of pupil premium funding in the following ways:

- performance tables, which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers
- requiring schools to publish details online each year of how they are using the pupil premium and the impact it is having on pupil achievement
- the Ofsted inspection framework, where inspectors focus on the attainment of pupil groups, and in particular those who attract the pupil premium

Extracts from recent Ofsted Reports for schools in Walsall

Ofsted Inspection - Moorcroft Wood February 2014 (Good)

“The funding for those eligible for the pupil premium funding is spent well. Part of it is used to subsidise the different trips and visits that help to widen pupils’ knowledge beyond the school environment. This has contributed to closing the gaps between those eligible for the pupil premium funding and the others in the school. In the 2013 national tests those pupils who were eligible for the pupil premium funding did better than the others in the school in writing and mathematics. They were about one term behind the others in reading”.

Ofsted Inspection - Barr Beacon January 2014 (Outstanding)

“The school makes good use of pupil premium funding to provide additional support for eligible students. They make progress similar to other students across all years, and compare favourably to similar students nationally at GCSE. In English and mathematics, in 2013 the gap between their results and other students’ results had narrowed to about a half of a grade lower. Current assessments suggest that the gaps are narrowing even further”.

Last year Ofsted published a report highlighting good practice in using pupil premium to maximise pupil achievement: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-funding-successfully-maximise-achievement>

Online Reporting

Schools must publish on their website how they spend their pupil premium funding. The level of detail they include is for each school to decide upon, but they must at least include the following:

- the schools pupil premium allocation for the current academic year
- details of how you intend to spend your allocation
- details of how you spent your previous academic year’s allocation
- how it made a difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils

Pupil Premium numbers: Walsall versus our statistical neighbours

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Walsall	10,200	14,460	15,510
Statistical Neighbours Average	7753	11,501	12,164