



# Pupil Premium Plus Policy & Information

**April 2026 – April 2027: Reviewed Annually**

*In this document, please note the following:*

1. 'Kent' refers to the local authority of Kent County Council
2. Information in '**red**' is time-limited for the duration of the grant

## Key Guidance

The following guides from Department For Education (DFE) and government, inform this policy;

- [Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)
- [The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children](#)
- [Pupil premium: virtual school heads' responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)
- [Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK](#)
- [Virtual school heads: section 31 grant determination letters - GOV.UK](#)
- [Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#)
- [Early years funding: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)
- [Pupil Premium Plus post-16 programme: grant determination letters - GOV.UK](#)
- [Using pupil premium guidance for school leaders](#)
- [Inspecting local authority children's services - GOV.UK](#)

Additionally, there is further information regarding Virtual School Kent's (VSK) use of Pupil Premium Plus on our website: [Pupil Premium Plus | Virtual School Kent](#)

## General Overview of the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Grant

- *“Looked-after children are one of the groups of pupils that attract PP+ funding. This is additional funding provided to help improve the attainment of looked-after children and close the attainment gap between them and their peers. Local authorities receive a PP+ grant allocation based on the number of children looked after for at least one day and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August, as recorded in the latest looked-after children data return.”* [Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)

## Role of The Virtual School Head (VSH) Linked to PP+

The Virtual School Head (VSH) in the Authority that looks after those children, is responsible for;

- *“The VSH should be the lead responsible officer for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of the authority’s looked-after children, including those placed out-of-authority.”*  
[Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)
- *“Promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the authority they work for.”*  
[Pupil premium: virtual school heads’ responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)
- *“VSHs are responsible for managing [pupil premium](#) funding for the children they look after and for allocating it to schools and alternative provision (AP) settings (these are places that provide education for children who can’t go to a mainstream school).”*  
[Pupil premium: virtual school heads’ responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)
- *“Inform head teachers and designated teachers in schools if they have a child on roll who is looked-after by the VSH’s local authority.”*  
[Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)
- *“VSHs are also responsible for managing the [early years pupil premium \(EYPP\)](#). They’re in charge of giving the premium to the early years providers that educate looked-after children (children in local-authority care) who are taking up the [free early education entitlement for 3- or 4-year-olds](#).”*  
[Pupil premium: virtual school heads’ responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)
- *“VSHs, working with education settings, should implement PP+ arrangements for all looked-after children, in need of support for whom the authority is responsible, in accordance with the latest conditions of grant published by the department and any supplementary departmental advice it issues. VSHs have considerable flexibility in the use of PP+ funding in order to maximise its impact for individual looked-after children as well as the whole looked-after cohort. All VSHs should publish a clear*

*policy on their use of PP+, including how they decide the level and use of top-sliced funding.”*

### [Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children](#)

- demonstrating how the effective use of PP+ is raising the achievement of looked after children. In Kent, this is done via VSK’s annual report to the Corporate Parenting Panel of Kent County Council and will also form part of Ofsted’s Inspection For Looked After Children (ILAC): [Inspecting local authority children’s services - GOV.UK](#)

#### ***Please Note:***

- Children who attend a Kent school but are Looked-After by another Local Authority are supported by the Virtual School from that authority.
- To ensure effective use of the PP+ Grant, the Virtual School Head Teacher can decide to retain some (or all) of the PP+ Grant that they receive so that a group, or all of the Authority’s Looked-After Children can benefit from it.
- Funding that is not distributed to schools must not be used to duplicate other Local Authority funding (e.g SEND or transport)

### **Current PP+ Arrangements (For Reception to Year 11)**

From September 2026;

- Kent schools (academy & maintained) are paid £500, per Kent Children in Care (CiC), three times a year (November, February, June), via the school advances.
- Evidence of how this funding has been used for the young person, needs to be included in their Personal Education / Engagement Plan (PEP).
- Independent schools and settings outside of Kent, may request funding via the young person’s PEP.
- Funding requests (including those additional to the payments above for Kent academy and maintained schools) will only be agreed if;
  - They follow the terms and conditions of the grant
  - The PEP is of a high quality
  - The PEP is returned in a timely manner (by the end of the seasonal term)
- Once a request has been agreed by VSK, a school will be able to access the funding by;
  - Payments through school advances (as above) – for Kent academies and maintained schools

- Submitting an invoice to VSK – for independent schools and those outside of Kent.
- Some of VSK’s funding is also used for;
  - Staffing to support children and young people
  - Countywide (& beyond) projects, e.g. access to Educational Psychologists
  - Area-based projects, see Summary Maps: [Pupil Premium Plus | Virtual School Kent](#)
- Virtual Schools are not permitted to carry forward unspent PP+ into a new financial year. This will be returned to the DFE.

## Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

[Early years funding: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

Virtual School Heads are responsible for identifying and managing the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for Children In Care (CiC). This funding will be given to early years providers that CiC attend.

The EYPP gives Kent-based providers additional funding to support children who are two, three or four years old, are currently in care to any local authority in England or Wales and are attending a Kent early years setting.

Once the child enters Reception, they will no longer be eligible for EYPP, but may become eligible for Pupil Premium Plus. Eligibility for EYPP does not lead automatically to eligibility for Pupil Premium Plus when the child starts school.

[2026/2027: Three payments per year of £190 \(July, December, March\) will be paid to Kent settings.](#)

[Early Years Pupil Premium Flowchart](#)

[Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#) (Section 9)

## Post 16 Pupil Premium (P16PP+)

[Sec 31 Pupil Premium Plus \(PP+\) post-16 funding to local authorities 2025 to 2026](#)

[Post16 Provision Budget | Virtual School Kent](#)

The purpose of this grant is to provide additional funding for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers (up to the end of the academic year in which they turn 18 years old).

“This funding will provide support to local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them to extend support to looked-after children and care leavers at post-16. This will build an evidence base of best practice which will inform any future support for this cohort of young people. Local authorities can spend this grant to support costs associated with meeting this duty. In doing so, they should take account of the statutory guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looking-after-children> , published on 26th February 2018, to help them implement this new duty.”

For Virtual School Kent (VSK), this funding is used for;

- Staffing to support young people
- Projects to support groups of young people
- Bespoke requests to support education and engagement needs, as identified in a PEP for the young person.

## **Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC)**

[Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children | Virtual School Kent](#)

Additional financial support for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) is available for schools through the Pupil Premium Grant which goes directly to schools if the eligible child is entered as such, on the School Census.

This additional funding is to be used to improve the attainment of PLAC and close the attainment gap between this group and their peers, reflecting the significant additional barriers faced by these children.

Designated Teachers (DTs) on the school staff, have a statutory responsibility to play a key part in decisions on how Pupil Premium is used for PLAC. They should encourage parents and carers involvement in deciding how the Pupil Premium is used to support their child and be the main contact for queries about its use.

VSK advise all Kent schools with previously looked after children to use the Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children (EPPLAC) as a way to identify the needs of these children, which would then form part of discussions around the best use of this part of a school’s pupil premium grant.

## **Other Useful Information:**

[The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#)