

Busy Governance Guide to the Pupil Premium Grant

1. **This is** additional funding for publicly funded schools in England. It's designed to help disadvantaged pupils of all abilities perform better and close the gap between them and their peers.
2. **How much?** The [grant](#) changes every financial year, but for 2025/26 schools and academies will receive £1,515 for pupils in reception to year 6, £1,075 for pupils in year 7 to year 11 and schools will receive £2,630 for any pupil identified in the October school census or the alternative provision census as having left local authority care as a result of: adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order) who has been in local authority care for 1 day or more recorded as both eligible for FSM in the last 6 years and as being looked after (or as having left local authority care). For pupils who attract the £2,630 rate, the virtual school head of the local authority that looks after the pupil will manage the funding.
3. **Service Children Premium** is different and schools and academies will receive £350 for eligible pupils.
4. **Register for FSM:** With the expansion of FSMs to all children in infant years, parents may well think they no longer need to register. Make sure your school explains that it is vital that parents register and advise if they have had FSMs in the last 6 years (FSM Ever 6) as they still qualify even if their circumstances have changed. Always make sure the school can tell parents what other helpful things registering for FSMs can bring to the family.
5. **Auto-enrolment:** Some local authorities, including Devon are using local and national data sources to work out which children are eligible and enrolling them automatically. This helps families that may have barriers to registering and helps schools to receive more funding. See [DAG Auto-Enrolment Briefing Paper](#) for more information.
6. **Mind the gap:** Do you know how Pupil Premium funding is being used in your school and how is it helping to close the gap? This is core governor business, the grant may be spent for the purposes of the school, ie for the educational benefit of pupils registered at the school and does not have to be completely spent by schools in the financial year, some of it may be carried forward to future financial years.
7. **Groups not individuals:** How many children do you have in your school in the pupil premium group? Do you know which classes or key stages they are in? Does one class or key stage have more pupil premium children than another?
8. **Data:** How much progress should be made, over what time period, for which group and when does practice change, or intervention begin? Monitor, record, evaluate and report back on the progress of your targeted groups.
9. **Website:** Schools must publish Pupil Premium information on their website: How much funding the school received this year and last year, what the money paid for/will pay for and the impact this has had on narrowing the gap. As part of the [pupil premium allocations and conditions of grant](#), schools are now required to demonstrate, how their spending decisions are informed by research evidence and use the [strategy statement templates](#) to publish their pupil premium strategy.

10. **Not individual children:** Individual children should not be identified or identifiable from the published information, data protection rules still apply.
11. **Still not individual children:** Pupil premium funding does not have to be used for the individual pupil it was given for, this is about groups of children.
12. **Parents (still not individual children):** Parents should be involved in the programme, but schools do not have to consult with parents on what parents' preferred activities are for their child, they do not have a right to demand that the money their child brings to the school is spent on their individual child.
13. **Ofsted:** Inspectors always ask if governors know how much Pupil Premium funding the school has and how it is used to make a difference. Have a 'Pupil Premium Governor' to keep up to date with work inside your school and outside, including from the Sutton Trust Education Endowment Foundation [Pupil Premium Toolkit](#).