



Bury Virtual School

Pupil Premium Plus Grant (PPG+) Policy 2024-25

The Pupil Premium Plus Grant (PPG+) is to offer children in care ‘above and beyond’ what any other child might receive in school, to help improve their progress and attainment and narrow the attainment gap between looked-after and previously looked-after children and their peers.

The statutory guidance on *‘Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked after children’* and *‘The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked after children’* along with the *‘Pupil Premium: Conditions of Grant’* sets out the arrangements for the allocation and effective use of the funding to improve educational outcomes for looked after and previously looked-after children.

The PPG+ grant does not have to be distributed on a ‘per child’ basis, given that children in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care. It is the responsibility of the Virtual School Head (VSH) in the Local Authority which maintains the care order to allocate funding in order to maximise impact for individual looked-after children as well as the whole cohort. For previously looked-after children it is the responsibility of the school to manage this funding effectively to ensure that children’s needs are met.

Pupil Premium Grant 2024-25

There is not an automatic allocation of PPG+ to schools from Bury Virtual School. In order that the grant can be used in response to the varying needs of Bury’s children in care, all PPG+ requests must be made via the child’s Personal Education Plan (PEP). **In 2024 – 25, schools can request up to £600 per term (so up to £1800 per academic year) per child, in order to support specified interventions for that term for the child as detailed in the PEP.**

In order to receive the funding, schools MUST specifically cost the intended spend on the PEP document and the requested money must link to the child’s targets, which should be SMART.

In exceptional circumstances, schools may request additional funding on top of the £600 per term standard allocation. The request must be made on the child's PEP with clear and detailed explanation of why the additional funding is required. We will review every request for funding above £600 per term on a case-by-case basis. **Please do not purchase resources until we have confirmed the request.**

On receiving the completed PEP, the Virtual School will complete an initial Quality Assurance review. The Virtual School will need to see that the targets match identified need and that there is clear evidence of how the school will measure the impact in terms of academic attainment. If this is clear, it is likely that the request for funding will be approved. **For PPG+ requests to be considered the following requirements MUST be met:**

- On a child becoming looked-after, complete the initial PEP within statutory timescales (ideally within 10 working days and no later than 20 working days) in order to inform the first looked-after child review.
- Complete a PEP each term within stated timescales. PEP documents **MUST** be completed within 2 weeks of the PEP meeting taking place.
- Funding requests will not be considered for poor quality PEPs.
- Each PEP **MUST** include details of intended educational outcomes and appropriate actions and interventions with the intention on 'narrowing the gap' with clear information of how requested PPG+ is going to be used to support this.
- Clear evidence of impact must be included when reviewing PEP targets and use of PPG+.
- Where a looked-after child has SEND, school **MUST** account for SEND funding that has been used to support individual needs alongside any PPG+ that has been requested or previously allocated.

PEP deadlines for 2024 – 2025

Term	PEP Completion Deadline
Autumn	29/11/2024
Spring	28/02/2025
Summer	06/06/2025

Deadline exceptions: looked-after children who are new into care and require initial PEP completion within 20 working days or if an emergency PEP review takes place (change in school, provision or needs)

What can PPG+ funding be spent on?

It is expected that children in care will access support, resources and interventions that are available at a universal level for all children in school and where identified, Special Educational Needs provision. PPG+ is to provide opportunities 'additional to' this offer. PPG+ requests will only be agreed if clear outcomes and costings are provided through a quality termly PEP.

The focus is on the following areas:

- Child or young person's views, wishes and feelings
- Academic achievement and progress: linked to clear outcomes, actions and subsequent impact
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs
- Engagement in education
- Attendance (target attendance is 95% or above)
- Inclusion, by reducing internal and external exclusions
- Transition support for next educational phase
- Wider achievement (*an identified area in which the child is gifted or talented*)

The following are suggestions of requests for funding which may be approved:

- Additional tuition or academic interventions
- Revision guides or other resources
- Laptops/IT equipment
- Additional supplies to support an academic interest, such as Art supplies or fiction books to read at home
- Mentoring or emotional support
- Trips for educational reasons
- Educational Psychology input
- Interventions to support mental health and social skills such as Lego Therapy
- Training for staff by external providers in particular interventions to support a child or on topics such as attachment/trauma

'The PPG+ can be used to facilitate a wide range of educational support for looked-after and previously looked-after children. It is important that interventions supported by pupil premium should be evidence based and in the best interest of the child.'

Further information is detailed in current statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2023-to-2024/pupil-premium-2023-to-2024-conditions-of-grant-for-localauthorities>

and available from the Education Endowment Fund Tool Kit:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learningtoolkit/>

Please note: the Virtual School will not usually approve requests for all three terms' funding to be allocated 'up front' as pupil mobility and the inability to review the impact of provision can make this a less effective use of the funding.

Circumstances in which PPG+ requests will not be approved

- As per the Conditions of Grant, PPG+ **cannot** be used to pay for **transport to school** or **uniform costs**.
- PPG+ cannot be used to double-fund or replace funding which has already been allocated to schools to support children and specifically to fund services or provision that should be provided via SEN Support funding, an EHCP or those children placed in independent or specialist provision. **We cannot fund any interventions specified in Section F of an EHCP as these should be funded by the child's allocated High Needs funding.**
- Interventions that do not require additional funding: all interventions should be 'additional to' what school would provide as part of their 'universal offer' for any other child with similar needs or in the case of children with identified SEND, provision made and supported through the graduated response process.
- School trips for social and leisure reasons, unless in exceptional circumstances: carers receive an allowance which should cover these costs. If a request is made for PPG+ to fund such trips, the PEP should detail why the carer's allowance is not sufficient.
- When outcomes and actions do not sufficiently match the identified needs of the child.
- PEPs that do not meet expected standard or have missing/incomplete sections – Designated Teachers and social workers will be asked to improve the PEP before funding is released.

How and why will the amount of Pupil Premium vary?

- The allocated PPG+ funding to the Virtual School per young person is a nominal amount based on numbers of looked-after children in the local authority at a point in time, per year.
- Each child will have different needs; some will need more support, some less. It is up to those attending the PEP meeting to decide what actions are needed to help narrow gaps.
- We know from research that one-to-one tuition is one of the most effective ways of raising standards for many children in care. This costs around £60 per hour (about £1800 per year).
- There are many other ways of using the funding, however, such as mentoring, work experience, specialist therapy and extra TA support.
- Whatever is decided at the meeting, the PEP form should outline specific targets and interventions and track outcomes and impact.

If the child has additional needs then designated teachers are asked to contact the Virtual School to discuss proposals and – if agreed – request additional funding on the PEP document, over the £600 that is the standard allocation. Granting of requests will require an exceptional case to be made in order to obtain additional funding approval.

This must be agreed and the spend authorised by the Virtual School Head before any provision is committed.

Proposals to pool Pupil Premium in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to the needs of looked-after children via the PEP, is allowed but must be discussed with and approved by the Virtual Head.

The Virtual School allocates the funding it retains to provide additional support, for example:

- Extra funding where the school makes a good case for additional support
- Transition support for children and young people moving to new schools in line with long-term care plans or foster placement changes
- Support for children in care not in education and in need of additional support to return to full-time education
- Use of alternative provision as a temporary measure while a school place is found for children who are not currently in education
- Wider enrichment, eg Letterbox Club book parcels and holiday activities
- Training for designated teachers and other staff who work in schools, especially in regards to attachment
- Training for foster carers to support education

Recoupment policy

- We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the child's needs as set out in the PEP.

Allocation of grant to independent schools and residential providers

- Pupil Premium **will not** be paid automatically to independent schools or residential providers because these are already funded at a high level by central LA budgets.
- Payments can be made to meet individual needs in very exceptional circumstances provided this is discussed with the Virtual School.

Pupil Premium for Children from other Local Authorities

- Different approaches will be adopted by different Local Authorities. Bury schools who have looked-after children from other LAs on their roll must contact the headteacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their Pupil Premium policy. Nationally, all headteachers of Virtual Schools are responsible for the allocation of Pupil Premium for all school-aged looked-after children from their LA, even though the child/young person is educated in a Bury school. The name and contact details of other Virtual School Headteachers can be requested from the Bury Virtual School team if needed.

Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC) PPG+ Grant

For Previously looked-after children, PPG+ funding is managed by the child's school. The amount a school receives is based on the number of eligible children recorded in the school's annual January School Census return to the Department for Education.

Schools will need to consider the needs of the individuals and how best to use the allocated funding to maximise their educational outcomes. In order for schools to receive the funding

the child's 'previously looked-after status' must be recorded on the school's administrative system and reported through the school census data collection. The DfE will fund the school directly; this does not come through the Virtual School.

There is no statutory requirement to develop and maintain Personal Education Plans for previously looked-after children. However, it is deemed as good practice for schools to do this if individuals require specific support and intervention continuing from their time as a looked after child.

While the Virtual School does not receive the PPG+ grant for Previously Looked-after Children, we have a duty to advise and support parents and schools. We may contact you regarding a child in this category and conversely, we welcome contact from schools if you need advice or support.

Supporting guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>