



Pupil Premium Plus Grant for Looked After Children Guidance

2025-26 Financial Year

PP+ funding is intended to improve educational outcomes for looked after children, by helping deliver the outcomes identified in their Personal Education Plan.

There is evidence that PP+ is most effective when used across 3 areas identified in the DfE's Menu of Approaches. We expect schools to prioritise these, in accordance with needs identified in a young person's PEP:

1. High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.
2. Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.
3. Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support.

Any activity funded by PP+ must fall under one of these approaches.

Funding requests must be made before an intervention is put in place as the funding is never guaranteed and retrospective applications may be refused.

Important Information

- PP+ funding is intended to provide additional support. It is not emergency funding and should not meet costs which should be funded elsewhere, including provision that is part of a school's general offer, and the entitlement set out in the *SEND code of practice: 0-25 years*, published in June 2014.
- It is a DfE requirement and an OFSTED expectation that schools evidence how the pupil premium is spent and how it benefits looked after children. Schools must ensure that every PEP includes SMART targets, details of how all PP+ funding has been used and clear evidence of impact on children's achievement.
- An invoice will be requested from independent and out of county schools to transfer agreed PP+ funding. **If an invoice is not provided by the specified deadline, it will be assumed that it is no longer required, and the funding will be reallocated. Schools will not be chased for invoices.**
- In all cases we reserve the right to recoup the funding if it is not being used to address the specific needs of the young person, as identified in the PEP.
- If you need help recording PP+ spend on the PEP, please contact your Virtual School Adviser, our PEP Manager, Julie Steward, or Pupil Premium Manager, Clare Farrant.

Local Authority Maintained Schools, Academies and Independent Mainstream settings

- Schools should request funding by recording PP+ spend against PEP outcomes. **If no spend is recorded, no funding will be allocated.** It should be clear from the PEP exactly how the funding is being spent and how it has

been calculated and there must be a clear outcome/impact measure – it is not enough to simply record an amount against outcomes. No amount is agreed automatically.

Independent Special schools and Alternative Providers

- Funding will only be paid to these settings in **exceptional circumstances** as the provision required by pupils is agreed at the time of placement and already paid in full by Norfolk County Council. Exceptional circumstances are identified through the young person's needs and identified support and are in addition to what the setting would reasonably be expected to provide.
- The exceptional funding process should be followed.

Exceptional funding request process

- Any funding requests **in excess of £600 per term must be discussed with your Virtual School Adviser** initially, then proposed PP+ spend recorded within a PEP outcome on whichever PEP is currently live on Welfare Call.
- The level of need and reason for the request should be clear from the PEP outcome, so that decisions can be made without needing to request further information from school. We need to see planned dates for when the intervention will take place and an exit strategy for how it will be ended. Further information can be added to box 2 on the Outcomes tab 'How is the curriculum being personalised', to support the request. Documents can be uploaded to the PEP but should be signposted within the PEP outcome.
- PP+ must not be used to provide resources already funded by the LA or replace allocated funding, including those detailed in the EHCP or statutory work.
- Exceptional funding will be agreed for a fixed period. Evidence of progress detailed in the PEP must be clear before agreement is given for repeat funding.
- All exceptional funding requests will be considered fortnightly, and schools will be notified of the outcome by email or can check the PEP record to see if funding has been approved.
- There are some requests for which exceptional funding won't be agreed –see FAQs within the Pupil Premium section on our website.

Timing of applications for exceptional funding

- Applications must always be made before an intervention is put in place.
- Requests for repeat funding must be made well before the end of the agreed period, to allow us time to consider the request and communicate the outcome.
- Retrospective applications may be refused.



01603 307769



clare.farrant@norfolk.gov.uk

You can also find out more on our website at:- www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/virtualschoolac

