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Pupil Premium – The Facts

DfE Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance on how schools must spend the pupil premium grant (including extracts from the Ofsted document *The Pupil Premium*).

The pupil premium must be used to raise the **attainment** of eligible pupils and to close the attainment gap between these pupils and others at the school.

However, as long as interventions funded by the pupil premium are demonstrably improving the performance of the pupils in receipt of the grant, schools may spend the money as they see fit.

Furthermore, **schools do not need to spend an equal amount on each eligible child, or to only spend a child's allocation on that child.**

It is up to schools to decide how to spend the funding. The purpose of the grant is not only to "close the gap" between eligible pupils and their peers, but also **to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.**

Section 6 of the DfE's conditions of use for the pupil premium grant 2017 to 2018 says that the grant may be spent: -

- For the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school.
- For the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools or academies.
- On community facilities, such as services that benefit pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work locally to the school.

The grant can therefore be used for non-educational items and support for pupils outside school hours **if this can be shown to meet the conditions of raising the attainment** of eligible pupils and/or closing the attainment gap between those pupils and others.

The pupil premium can be spent on activities for all pupils provided that the primary purpose of the activity is to **close the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peer**, and the school can demonstrate this. There is no minimum number of eligible pupils that need to be part of an activity in order for any spending of the grant to be valid.

The DfE states that schools can use the pupils premium to employ class teachers or support staff. The classes or groups taught by these staff members do not have to include a specific percentage of pupils receiving the pupil premium, as long as the school can demonstrate that the money is being used to support the learning of eligible pupils and to narrow the attainment gap.

- **A survey conducted by Ofsted in 2012 found that more than a quarter of the schools questioned had used some or all of the pupil premium to fund new or existing teachers, and over two-fifths of schools used it to pay for teaching assistants.**

The DfE states that schools may use the pupil premium grant to fund music tuition or lessons by outside organisations provided the lessons are for those who are in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Ofsted's 2012 survey into the use of the pupil premium says that some schools have used pupil premium funding to subsidise or pay for external tuition of music, dance or drama.

The pupil premium is paid to schools as they are best placed to assess what additional provision their pupils need. *A DfE representative has stated that this means that only schools have a say in pupil premium spending and parents do not have the right to make demands about how the funding is spent.*

The DfE does not require schools to maintain formal records of how the pupil premium is spent. However, Ofsted inspectors will ask for evidence about how the pupil premium was spent as part of their evaluation of how the grant is used.

Schools are required to publish specific information about their pupil premium allocation online.

Schools must publish in relation to the previous academic year: -

- Details of how the pupil premium allocation was spent
- Information on the impact of that expenditure on eligible and other pupils

In relation to the current academic year, schools must publish: -

- The amount of the school's pupil premium allocation

- A summary of the main barriers to educational achievement faced by eligible pupils
- How the pupil premium allocation is to be spent to address those barriers and the reasons for that approach
- How the school is to measure the impact and effect of its expenditure of the pupil premium
- The date of the school's next review of its pupil premium strategy.

Reference documents used:

The Key for School Leaders: Spending the Pupil Premium

<https://schoolleavers.thekeysupport.com/administration-and-management/la-funds/grants-and-pupil-premium/pupil-premium-grant-terms-of-allocation-to-schools/>

Ofsted: The Pupil Premium Report

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413222/The_Pupil_Premium.pdf

The Department for Education – Guidance Pupil Premium 2017-2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2017-to-2018/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2017-to-2018#terms-on-which-ppg-is-allocated-to-schools>