

Summary

Pupil Premium

- ♣ Funding through the Premium will amount to £1.25bn in 2012-13.
- ♣ From April 2012 the Pupil Premium will be £600 per deprived pupil in years from Reception to Year 11 in maintained schools and academies in England.
- ♣ The indicator used for deprivation will be those pupils on the January 2012 School Census who have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in the last 6 years, known as “Ever 6 FSM”. This will extend the Premium to another half million pupils.
- ♣ Children who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the past generally have poorer academic results than those who have never been eligible for FSM. These pupils therefore should benefit from the additional support the Pupil Premium funding will be able to provide.
- ♣ In addition, deprived pupils in non-mainstream settings who are publicly funded –Special Schools, Non-Maintained Special Schools, Independent Schools, Not in School, General Hospital Schools, Pupil Referral Units and 14-15 year olds in Further Education (FE) Colleges - will also attract a Premium of £600 on an Ever 6 FSM basis.
- ♣ Children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months will also attract a Premium of £600.
- ♣ A Service Child Premium of £250 for children whose parents are in the armed forces.
- ♣ Up to £50m of the total will be available to fund a Summer School Programme for disadvantaged pupils to support their transition to secondary schools in September 2012.

Pupil Premium Q and A

What will the level of the Premium per pupil be for next year?

It will increase from £488 in 2011-12 to £600 per pupil in 2012-13 for pupils eligible for FSM and for pupils in care who have continuously looked after for six months.

How much has overall funding for the Premium increased for 2012-13?

Total funding through the Premium will increase from £625m in 2011-12 to £1.25bn in 2012-13.

Shouldn't the increase per pupil be larger when total funding for the Premium has doubled next year?

We are widening the coverage of the Premium to include those eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years (known as the Ever 6 FSM measure). We estimate that this will include an extra 555,000 pupils.

Why are you including those previously eligible for FSM?

Children who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the past generally have poorer academic results than those who have never been eligible for FSM. These pupils therefore should benefit from the additional support the Pupil Premium funding will be able to provide.

We also know there is under-reporting of FSM. We will in future, through the Ever FSM measure include some pupils who are currently eligible for FSM but are not registered.

Why extend coverage to six years?

There is a particular issue with the under-reporting of secondary school pupils. Extending eligibility to those eligible for FSM in the past six years means that a child previously registered in the last year of primary education will remain eligible for the Premium up to Year 11.

We consulted in the summer on whether to extend coverage to those eligible for FSM in the past 3 years (Ever 3 measure) or the past 6 years. There was stronger support for the wider six year coverage with 44% supporting it compared to 28% for the Ever 3 measure.

Will schools lose out from the change?

The level of the per pupil Premium is rising next year so every school with FSM pupils will receive more funding for the same number of FSM pupils. We know however that the level of FSM registration falls markedly in secondary schools and our wider coverage will try to address this.

How will schools know how many pupils previously eligible for FSM they have?

The Department will pass on to schools in February 2012 the number of pupils in their schools previously eligible for FSM. This means that when added to the number of pupils eligible for FSM in January 2012 they will be able to estimate the total number of pupils eligible for the Premium in 2012-13.

Are you providing any estimates of the funding schools will receive next year?

Yes, we have published on our website **indicative** allocations setting out what schools might receive based on their existing pupil numbers and the higher £600 per pupil. **These are not the allocations schools will receive which**

will be based in part on their January 2012 pupil numbers.

Q. Is there a deadline for parents registering their child for Free School Meals, and so attracting the Pupil Premium for their school?

To ensure schools don't miss out on additional funding to which they're entitled, parents should register as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) as soon as possible, in time for the school census on 19 January 2012. Schools will be able to help parents to apply and their local authority will be able to say the last date applications can be submitted in time for them to confirm eligibility before the census.

Parents may need to fill out an application form for the Local Authority and possibly provide a national insurance number or proof of benefits in order to be registered as eligible for FSM.

Schools receive additional funding – the Pupil Premium – for each pupil on their roll registered as eligible for FSM. This will be £600 per pupil in 2012/13. The full amount a school will receive in 2012/13 will depend on how many FSM pupils they have on their roll on 19 January 2012 - census day.

Q. How will the Pupil Premium be affected by the introduction of Universal Credits?

It is too early to say how passported benefits such as FSM eligibility will operate under the new Universal Credit system and therefore how this will affect the Pupil Premium arrangements. The Department is working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions on its introduction. The new Universal Credit system is not intended to commence roll out until October 2013.

Q. If FSM under-reports why not change to a different deprivation indicator to determine eligibility for the Premium?

We chose FSM eligibility to determine eligibility for the Premium as it is the only pupil based indicator available. This means we can target funding specifically at pupils where the link with low attainment is very strong.

Other indicators are generally based on the characteristics of the area which means that some non-deprived pupils living in deprived areas would qualify for the Premium.

Q. Why have you decided to keep a flat premium and not to reflect differences around the country in the amount of deprivation funding?

We want to keep Premium funding simple and transparent and this is best achieved through a flat rate premium. Schools will know how many pupils they have and how much they will receive per pupil through the Premium.

We are also looking to reform the current system for funding schools through

the Dedicated Schools Grant to make the system simpler and fairer. The aim is to publish further consultation on options in the spring.

Q. Will there be an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) for the Premium to reflect differing costs across the country?

We want to keep the Premium simple and transparent and so are not intending to include an ACA for the current spending review period. We did however seek views on an ACA for the Premium in the funding consultation during the summer and will consider whether this is appropriate for the longer term.

Q. Is the Service Premium increasing?

Yes, the Service Premium will increase from £200 in the current year to £250 in 2012-13.

Q. Should Service children receive be the same level of Premium as for FSM pupils?

Our priority for the Pupil Premium is about raising the attainment for deprived pupils. Service children don't as a group underachieve but we provided additional funding through the Service premium in recognition of the specific challenges that these children face. The funding we are providing will enable schools to offer, mainly pastoral, support for them.

Q. Why are you using Premium funding for the Summer School programme?

We recognise the challenges that some pupils face when transferring from primary to secondary education and will be providing funding so that secondary schools can offer a two week Summer School programme for disadvantaged pupils transferring to secondary school in September 2012.

More details on the operation of the programme will be published in the New Year.

Q. What information will schools have to publish on-line on the use of the Pupil Premium?

Schools will have to publish details of their Pupil Premium allocation and plans to spend in the current year. For the previous year a statement confirming allocation and how the money was spent and the impact this had on educational attainment.