



FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL

Pupil Premium Policy

Date Published	July 2018
Review Due	July 2020

Who receives the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium grant is a Government policy to allocate additional money to specifically targeted children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are Looked After by the Local Authority for six months or more.

What are the aims of the Pupil Premium?

Research shows that Looked After Children underachieve quite considerably when compared with their peers who are not Looked After. This is often because they have experienced a variety of significant difficulties in their lives, or perhaps because they have had a number of placement moves, or they have substantial gaps in their schooling, or because they are identified as having Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. The Pupil Premium focuses on increasing social mobility, enabling pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to move more effectively into Higher Education, and to reduce the attainment gap between the highest and lowest achieving pupils nationally. If a Local Authority asks the school to manage the fund, the proceeds of the Premium will be used to improve pupils' educational attainment.

What do Local Authorities do with the Pupil Premium?

The Government pays a sum of money to Local Authorities to finance the Pupil Premium. In most cases, a Local Authority will issue the money to schools to spend on Looked After Children on their behalf as they see fit. However, a Local Authority retains responsibility for allocating the Premium, and for deciding what provision should be made for the pupil. This means that Farney Close does not directly attract these payments. This is because many Local Authorities have a different approach to allocating the Premium and there are some who do not allocate the money to schools directly, preferring to make alternative arrangements themselves for pupils they have placed in out-of-county residential schools such as Farney Close.

How will the school identify what the money should be used for?

All Looked After Children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which is reviewed every term and amended at the Looked After Review if necessary. This is to ensure that funding is being effectively spent to raise a pupil's attainment and personal development. All of this is monitored by the Independent Reviewing Officer.

Naturally, it is to be reasonably expected that there will be a direct link between the PEP and the pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The effectiveness of PEP funding may well form part of the Annual Statutory Assessment of the pupil's EHCP. The PEP should identify the child's educational and developmental needs and contain personalized short and long-term targets.

Once the school receives the funds, how will they be used?

There are a variety of intervention strategies used in schools to raise attainment. Some pupils may benefit from programmes to improve reading and numeracy. Others may concentrate on independent learning skills or access to after-school tutoring in a particular area. Funding may also be used for assessment for learning, or to further develop a skill that a pupil is already good at; for example, Art, Music, IT or Sport etc. Similarly, pupils who may have more therapeutic needs that stand in the way of their academic development may have their funding used to develop self-regulation strategies. However, the school chooses to spend the funds, it will be closely monitored, and any improvements will be measured and recorded.

What if those who care for a pupil want the Premium to be used for something else?

We know that there are times when Foster Carers, Social Workers and others working with a pupil want the Premium to be used for something other than those areas mentioned earlier. This is often because they believe it's in the pupil's best interest for reasons other than academic attainment. However, it is clear from the guidance that the funds should be used to improve academic attainment which is measurable, and that the school has a responsibility to oversee the effective use of the funds. Therefore, if the people who are legally responsible for the pupil decide at the LAC review that the PEP should reflect a different use for the Premium, the school requests that in addition to the recommendations of the review, it is informed by letter:

- how the funds will be spent
- how measurable progress, academic or otherwise, will be identified
- who will take responsibility for overseeing this progress.