



# The Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care, or who are Post LAC

## North Lincolnshire Council

### Adoption Service

#### **The Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order / Child Arrangements Order**

##### **Information**

This pupil premium is for children who are recorded in the January school census and alternative provision census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

To enable your child's school to claim the Pupil Premium, you will need to inform the school about your child and provide supporting evidence. For example, show the school a photocopy of the original Adoption (Court) Order with sensitive information concealed, e.g. the names of the birth parents. You will need to self-declare before the date schools complete their annual School Census (this tends to be in January of each year but if unsure please ask your child's school). This will then trigger the payment of the Pupil Premium to the school in the following financial year.

The Schools Census guidance explains exactly what schools need to record on the census return and highlights the sensitivities that may exist around asking parents to self-disclose – the guidance is online at <https://www.gov.uk/school-census>

The school needs to make sure that they record the child's status on the school census as it is this that triggers the payment of the money direct to school. If the child's status is not recorded on the census then there will be no payment to the school.

**Here are some of the frequent questions, compiled by the DfE, about the pupil premium:**

### **Who is eligible?**

Schools will receive £1,900 for each pupil who has left local-authority care because of 1 of the following:

- adoption
- a special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order
- a residence order

### **How will children adopted from care and post-LAC access the pupil premium?**

This is money for schools to use. Parents and guardians of children who have left the care system through adoption, or who are post-LAC, will need to self-declare their child's status to the school where their child is on roll. Parents and guardians will be required to provide evidence to the school, such as their adoption order. The school can then use that information to record on their School Census how many children on their roll were adopted from care or are post-LAC.

### **Why is the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care and post-LAC going to schools?**

Children adopted from care and post-LAC are no longer looked after and virtual school heads do not have a role in promoting their achievement. Individual schools are responsible for the educational outcomes of children adopted from care/post-LAC on roll and therefore are best placed to decide how to use the Pupil Premium to support these pupils.

Schools may wish to discuss the measures they are putting in place with the parents and guardians of the pupils concerned.

### **When do schools need to record post-LAC and children adopted from care on the School Census?**

Schools complete the School Census in January. You need to make sure you speak to your child's school before the end of January.

### **When should parents and guardians self-declare to the school?**

Parents and guardians will need to self-declare to the school their child is on roll at as soon as possible to ensure that the school records them on the January Census. Schools will not necessarily be aware that they have adopted children and post-LAC on roll and so we would encourage parents/guardians to come forward, rather than relying on the school to approach them.

### **Will parents and guardians need to self-declare again? If so, when?**

Parents and guardians will need to self-declare again if their child moves school. Parents and guardians will need to ensure that they self-declare to the new school before the next January School Census to ensure that the school can attract the Pupil Premium funding to which it is entitled.

### **Is the Pupil Premium paid in advance or arrears i.e. when will schools first receive the amounts for children recorded on the January School Census**

Schools will receive funding for pupils who are recorded on the January School Census in the following financial year.

### **What school types attract the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care/post-LAC?**

Mainstream schools and non-maintained special schools that record these pupils on the January School Census will attract the funding. The Department will contact General Hospital Schools directly and they will attract funding if they have children adopted from care/post-LAC on roll.

### **Do pupils adopted from care/post-LAC in pre-school or in post-16 education get the Pupil Premium?**

No. The Pupil Premium is additional funding for schools and they attract it for eligible pupils between Reception and Year 11.

## **Do schools have to spend the additional funding they are getting on the individual child adopted from care?**

Schools attract £1900 for every child identified as being adopted from care/post-LAC on the January School Census. This is additional funding given to schools to improve the educational and personal outcomes for pupils who have been adopted from care, including (but not limited to) their attainment. It is not intended that the additional funding should be used to back-fill the general school budget nor is it the policy intention that the funding should be used to support other groups of pupils, such as (for example) those with special educational needs or who are low attaining.

The funding is not ring-fenced and is not for individual children – so the Department would not necessarily expect the school to spend £1900 on every child adopted from care on roll at the school. This is partially because a child may have left the school and new pupils may have joined but also because a school is best placed to determine how the additional funding can be deployed to have the maximum impact. For example, a school may decide to train their staff in recognising and responding to attachment-related issues; or that a particular adopted child needs tailored support that is in excess of the £1900 the school has received. Alternatively, they may decide that a whole class intervention is appropriate and that other pupils that attract the Pupil Premium will benefit from this, alongside other pupils who are not deemed to be disadvantaged.

## **What role do parents and guardians have in terms of the Pupil Premium then?**

The role of parents and guardians in their child's education is crucial and we expect schools will want to engage with them about the education of the pupils on their roll, irrespective of whether they attract the Pupil Premium. However, we would hope that schools would want to take particular advantage of this relationship with regards to children adopted from

care/post-LAC, as the school may have only become aware of the child's status when they are told this by the child's parent ahead of the School Census and they may be unfamiliar with the detail of any barriers to learning that child may be facing as a result of their history. Schools should, of course, be mindful of the sensitivities that may exist around the child's history and ways in which their experiences prior to leaving care are affecting the child currently.

### **Where can schools go for support and guidance on how best to support the educational and pastoral needs of children adopted from care/post-LAC?**

The DfE encourages all schools to use robust evidence when making decisions about how to spend their Pupil Premium. Schools may contact their local authority and national organisations such as Adoption UK for support and guidance. The Sutton Trust-Education Endowment Foundation Teaching and Learning Toolkit is also a useful source of information schools can draw on.

The characteristics of children adopted from care/post-LAC do not disappear overnight. Schools may find Virtual School Heads (based within the local authority) and the designated teacher at the school a valuable source of information.

### **Do you still have questions?**

#### **Then please contact the Adoption Duty Worker at:**

North Lincolnshire Adoption Service  
Church Square House  
30 – 40 High Street  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL  
Telephone: 01724 297024

The information in this information leaflet can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audiotape. Please phone **01724 297024** if you need any of these or any other help to access North Lincolnshire's services.