



Supporting Children in Care



CiC Pupil Premium Policy

Financial year: 2021-22

1. Introduction

Our policy is informed by the Department for Education (DfE) document : [Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/542222/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022.pdf)

Throughout our policy, the Pupil Premium for CiC will be referred to as **CiC Pupil Premium** to distinguish it from other forms of Pupil Premium allocations.

- The amount per child in care is £2,345. It is not a personal budget for individual children.
- Children and young people will be eligible as soon as they enter care.
- Local authorities continue to be responsible for distributing the CiC Pupil Premium payments to schools and academies. However, in addition, Virtual School Headteachers are responsible for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating CiC Pupil Premium funding to benefit children looked after by their authority.
- The overall grant allocated to each LA will be calculated on a per capita basis.
- The grant must be managed by the Virtual School and used for the benefit of the young person's educational needs as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- PEPs will need to be monitored closely by designated teachers, the Virtual School team, social workers, team leaders and Independent Reviewing Officers.

In addition and through a separate process, children adopted from care, and those who left care or on a Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangements Order will be entitled to £2,345. This funding is passed directly to the school and is therefore outside the remit of this policy.

Our allocation of CiC Pupil Premium is based on a “**child's needs-driven model**”, managed through high quality PEPs.

2. CiC Pupil Premium Policy

2.1 Overall principles

- The Headteacher of The HOPE Virtual School is responsible for the use of CiC Pupil Premium to improve outcomes for all Bristol's children in our care, wherever they live (approximately 1/3rd of Bristol CiC are educated in out-of-city settings).
- We are committed to working in collaboration with schools and other agencies to ensure each individual child receives an entitlement (though there may be exceptions to this principle, as outlined below).
- To this end we aim to passport the majority of the money* to settings as long as they are able to demonstrate the impact CiC Pupil Premium is having/ will have on outcomes and meet The HOPE's compliance criteria (see 3.2 below).
- In the academic year 2020-21, some of the grant was used to fund Virtual School-led interventions (e.g. Letterbox Club, a literacy project). This is subject to review on an annual basis but is anticipated to continue in the 2021-22 academic year.
- Bristol City Council and The HOPE Virtual School Headteacher are corporate parents, so the question: 'Would this be good enough for my child?' is a central one in making decisions and evaluating the effectiveness of the use of CiC Pupil Premium.

**£1,950 for all settings except independent non-maintained for whom the maximum amount is £1,500*

Reasons The HOPE Virtual School has centrally pooled a proportion of CiC Pupil Premium

In 2018/19, for the first time, the Virtual School had to pool a proportion of the CiC Pupil Premium as we received less money from the high needs block as part of savings agreed at Schools' Forum. This reduction continues to apply for 2021/22.

The DfE's February 2018 statutory guidance: '[Promoting the Education of looked after and previously looked after children](#)' states:

"VSHs, working with education settings, should implement PP+ arrangements for all looked-after children, in need of support for whom the authority is responsible, in accordance with the latest conditions of grant published by the department and any supplementary departmental advice it issues. VSHs have considerable flexibility in the use of PP+ funding in order to maximise its impact for individual looked-after children as well as the whole looked-after cohort. All VSHs should publish a clear policy on their use of PP+, including how they decide the level and use of top-sliced funding"¹⁰. (Page 19)

¹⁰ "The proportion of PP+ funding centrally pooled by the VSH and used to provide support best delivered at a local authority-wide level – e.g. training on attachment for all designated teachers in the authority area."

In order to be transparent and accountable for this public money, The HOPE Virtual School has a governance board with representatives of stakeholders including a Headteacher Representative from each sector of education. As with all schools, the governing body also has a finance committee with oversight of the CiC Pupil Premium spend providing suitable challenge and scrutiny of the spend and its impact.

In order to support the cohort as a whole, it is beneficial or necessary for The HOPE Virtual School to administer certain expenditure itself; for example:

1. My Books and Letterbox Club - literacy packages for specific pupils to support reading across the cohort.
2. Flash Academy EAL programme for UASC
3. Education Psychology advice and information.
4. Additional 1:1 tuition support for Y11 students, commissioned by The HOPE for extra support for GCSEs, outside school hours.
5. Throughout 2021/22 we will continue to provide enhanced training for designated teachers for CiC and previously looked after children, plus briefings and bespoke individual support to all schools with Bristol Children in Care, as required. In most cases this will be provided without further cost to the setting.
6. Centrally pooled CiC Pupil Premium will contribute towards the salaries of some HOPE staff in order for them to provide individual feedback and support to schools, social workers, carers and young people. The HOPE also provides free training to social care staff and carers.
7. Some CiC Pupil Premium Grant is spent on systems to enable the Virtual School to have immediate oversight of personal education plans and attendance information collection; for example The HOPE's commissioned provider for attendance data collection.

Principles for spending any CiC Pupil Premium that The HOPE has not been able to passport directly to schools due to non-compliance

- The HOPE Virtual School provides feedback on compliance to schools via direct contact, training and support as well as calling schools to account for the outcomes for children in care. However The HOPE Virtual Headteacher reserves the right to retain CiC Pupil

Premium if schools do not demonstrate they are spending it appropriately for the child's academic needs.

- Where any surplus is retained within The HOPE, the Virtual School will use this money to meet additional needs for individuals or groups of pupils who have complex needs or challenging circumstances that require more funding (see below).
- For some children the CiC Pupil Premium is only a fraction of the cost of the support they need e.g.:
 - children who come into care in an emergency with a fragmented home and education history and who are behind academically
 - children who have to move into or out of city in an emergency
 - children placed out of city in other LAs where the level of support from Virtual School teams may not be the same and who therefore will lose out without additional help
 - children where there is a significant and often delayed reaction to abuse and neglect, which manifests in hard to anticipate behavioural 'spikes'.

In view of this, there could be a significant difference in the amount of CiC Pupil Premium distributed.

Proposals to pool CiC Pupil Premium in a school to enhance services, providing its use is directly linked to children in care's needs via the PEP, are allowed.

2.2 Circumstances in which CiC Pupil Premium will not be provided

CiC Pupil Premium will not be used to double fund or replace funding which should already have been allocated to the school to support the child and specifically:

- to fund services that should be provided via an EHC plan
- other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health
- the interventions put in place do not require any funding
- the school's own funding covers the cost of the interventions
- the PEP action plan does not meet requirements (see section 3.1).

Whereas in the past, some schools have used the CiC Pupil Premium to fund interventions for other learners - interventions which had no link to the CiC's needs - this practice will no longer be permitted.

3. Management and accountability

The Headteacher of The HOPE Virtual School will be accountable to the Corporate Parenting Panel and The HOPE Virtual School governance board for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process and ensuring maximised impact of the grant.

3.1. Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

- We will honour our commitment to schools to minimise paperwork and we will not require schools to submit a separate application form for CiC Pupil Premium. The PEP's action plan will therefore double up as the accountability for CiC Pupil Premium funding. This will of course be reviewed in the light of practice. Currently settings are asked to complete a simple form if The HOPE is able to offer any additional CiC Pupil Premium funding.
- The CiC Pupil Premium will **only** be provided to meet the needs identified in a high quality plan in the PEP with clear SMART targets for improvement, underpinned by well-targeted support.

- Settings must use the CiC Pupil Premium to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:
 - academic achievement and progress – we recommend that 80% of the CiC Pupil Premium should be spent on supporting outcomes for English and/or Maths - particularly if the child is only just at or is falling below age related expectations (ARE)
 - wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the child has shown an interest (impact to be evidenced clearly)
 - attendance
 - inclusion [by reducing internal and external exclusion]
 - social, emotional and wellbeing skills from an accredited provider
 - transition into the next key stage and/or to a new learning provider.
- The CiC Pupil Premium information on the PEP form will show the area of curriculum identified for support, agreed intervention, cost and impact (or expected impact) of the intervention.

Please note that national and international studies have shown that one to one tuition has a disproportionately positive impact for children in care.

3.2 Allocation of funding to settings and retention policy

- The CiC Pupil Premium Grant will be transferred two times a year including for independent non-maintained settings (INMs). Payments will be made via the BCC finance system (Agresso Business World (ABW) or via Trading with Schools.
- Independent non-maintained settings will receive an allocation of funding up to a maximum of £1,500 based on information provided in the young person's PEP. Any payment agreed will be made in line with the compliance round (if applicable) following the date of the young person's PEP – June 2021; February 2022.
- In principle, we will pay the following amounts to all but independent non-maintained settings:
 - £975 in June 2021 to all settings that meet the compliance criteria
 - £975 in February 2022 to all settings that meet the compliance criteria.
- Where there is a need to clarify what funding a school is providing from its own resources, the school may need to provide evidence before CiC Pupil Premium can be allocated.

We reserve the right to withhold the funding if settings do not provide adequate evidence that it is being used to address the CiC's needs or do not cooperate fully with The HOPE's compliance factors. These are currently:

- having up to date attainment data and a current PEP form that shows evidence of CiC Pupil Premium expenditure and impact. The PEP also needs to be judged as good or better

3.3 CiC Pupil Premium for Children and Young People from other Local Authorities

- Different approaches will be adopted by different LAs, as the contexts vary
- Bristol settings who have children and young people in care from other Local Authorities on their roll must contact the Headteacher of the relevant Virtual School to request their CiC Pupil Premium policy, as, nationally, all Headteachers of Virtual Schools are responsible for the allocation of CiC Pupil Premium for all school aged children and young people in care to their authority, even though the child/young person is educated in a Bristol school.
- The name and contact details of other Virtual School Headteachers can be requested from The HOPE, Bristol's Virtual School.