



Northern Lights
LEARNING TRUST

PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

Review Date: Autumn 2021

Next review date: Autumn 2022

Person in charge: CEO/Trust Business Manager

Governance: Chair of Board

Funding

Pupil Premium funding is additional funding, given to publicly funded schools, so schools can extend their support to disadvantaged pupils in order to help close the attainment gap between these children and their peers. Research shows that pupils from deprived backgrounds underachieve compared to their non-deprived peers. The premium is provided to enable these pupils to be supported to reach their potential. It is paid to schools according to the number of pupils who have been:

- Registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years (Ever 6);
- Been looked after by the Local Authority continuously for more than six months.

The TRUST will receive the agreed amount from the EFA, for each eligible pupil in each financial year and will passport this to the schools directly with full payment.

Pupil Premium Plus was introduced in the financial year 2014/15 at a standard rate for each eligible primary-aged pupil. Pupil Premium Plus is funding to support children who:

- Are currently under the care of the Local Authority;
- Have been looked after by the Local Authority, at any point, for 1 day or more;
- Were adopted from Local Authority care on or after 30 December 2005 ;
- Left Local Authority care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005;
- Left Local Authority care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991.

A Services Pupil Premium is also available for Service Children (children whose parents are serving in the British Armed Forces) which is an agreed national amount. This premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these pupils.

The Trust is allocated funding based on the results of the January school census, it is therefore important that the Trust has the correct information about all pupils in school. From time to time each Academy will ask parents for information regarding family circumstances to ensure that all pupils who are eligible are registered via the school census. Parents should keep the Academy up-to-date with any changes in circumstances, this can be done via the school office or confidentially with the Principal or Academy Business Manager.

All information relating to family circumstances is kept confidential in each school.

Each Academy [if delegated] has the freedom to spend the Pupil Premium, which is additional to the underlying school budget, in a way in which best supports the raising of attainment for the most vulnerable pupils. The targeted and strategic use of Pupil Premium funding will support us in achieving our vision.

Context

When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of the school and the subsequent challenges faced. Common barriers for eligible children can be less support at home, weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, more frequent behaviour difficulties, and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied and there is no 'one size fits all'.

Principles

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all pupils.
- We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, this includes ensuring the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately addressed.
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils in receipt of free school meals will be socially disadvantaged.
- We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals.
- In order not to disadvantage any pupil or to draw attention to the minority of pupils to whom this applies, we reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the academy has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.
- Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, a group of pupils or individuals. Limited funding and resources means that not all pupils receiving free school meals will be in receipt of Pupil Premium interventions at one time.

Provision

The range of provision the LOCAL GOVERNING BODY [if delegated] may consider making for this group could include:

- reducing class sizes, thus improving opportunities for effective Assessment for Learning and accelerating progress;
- providing small group work with an experienced teacher or teaching assistant focussed on overcoming gaps in learning ;
- 1-1 support;
- additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through learning mentors, trained teaching assistants, pastoral care or external agencies;
- support for pupils where attendance is less than 95%;
- funding children to participate in music lessons, after school clubs, or residential visits if reasonable and where participation in such activities may not be able to go ahead for that pupil, without this subsidy;
- all our work through the Pupil Premium will be aimed at accelerating progress moving pupils to at least age related expectations, predominantly in English and Mathematics; resources to target able pupils to achieve expected level or greater depth.

Pupil Premium support will be personalised and therefore not every child will receive the same amount of funds for identical support. Priority will be given to accelerating educational progress and attainment.

For pupils in receipt of FSM this could be different to those in receipt of Ever 6 funding, similarly both could be different support for Looked After pupils. The school will decide how best to support the pupils.

Accountability

The Principal and LOCAL GOVERNING BODY are held accountable by the TRUST, for the impact of the Pupil Premium funding in the following ways:

- performance tables, which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers;
- requiring schools to publish details online each year of how they are using the pupil premium and the impact it is having on pupil achievement.

Reporting

The Trust will produce a Pupil Premium Report for each academic year, based on a report from each LOCAL GOVERNING BODY, which will include, as a minimum, the following:

- the Pupil Premium allocation for the academic year;
- details of how the Academy intends to spend the allocation;
- details of how the previous year's allocation has been spent;
- how the Pupil Premium is making a difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

The MAT Board will consider the information provided and will ensure that there is an annual statement to the parents on the Academy website, provided by the LOCAL GOVERNING BODYs, outlining how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of closing the gap for eligible pupils.

Appeal

Any appeals against this policy will be through the Trust's complaints procedure.