



Education Update

February 2023

Pupil premium

The DfE issued new guidance on 16 December 2022 giving the rates per pupil per year for the pupil premium in the financial year 2023/24.

Its primary function is to provide additional educational and social support for disadvantaged children.

Eligibility

Maintained schools

- All mainstream local authority (LA) schools serving children age 5–16.
- All LA schools for children with SEND.
- PRUs.

Academies, free schools and non-maintained special schools

- Mainstream academies serving children age 5–16.
- Academies and non-maintained special schools for children with SEND.
- Pupils in non-maintained special schools where the LA pays tuition fees.
- AP academies.

Rates per pupil per year

Primary schools

FSM pupils	£1,455.
Looked-after children	£2,530.
Previously looked-after pupils	£2,530.

Secondary schools

FSM pupils	£1,035.
Looked-after children	£2,530.
Previously looked-after pupils	£2,530.

Note

From 1 April 2023, pupil premium eligibility for primary and secondary pupils previously in care will include children adopted from outside of England and Wales.

Use of funding

Schools

School leaders can decide how to spend their pupil premium (and recovery premium) within the framework set out by the ‘menu of approaches’. This menu suggests that the most effective use of the premium is on:

- High quality teaching.
- Targeted academic support.
- Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success eg attendance, behaviour, forms of social and emotional support etc.

The funding can also be used at the school’s discretion for non-FSM children who have a specific need – such as those who act as carers or have or have had a social worker.

Local authorities

Funding for looked-after pupils is managed by virtual school headteachers for the pupils in their care. They work with schools to ensure that funding is used to deliver the outcomes in the children’s personal education plans.

Accountability

Schools are required to show how they are using the pupil premium funding:

- By publishing a statement on their website.

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CEFM assists schools to keep up-to-date with current issues.

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- Through Ofsted inspections.
- Through published performance tables.

Service pupil premium Eligibility

This funding is to help with pastoral support for service children, namely:

- Pupils recorded in the October school census as a service child ie as having one parent serving in the regular armed forces.
- Pupils previously registered in the last six years as a service child.

- Pupils receiving a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

Rates per pupil per year

All eligible pupils £335.

Careers guidance in primary and secondary schools

Primary careers education

Back in 2018, the government-backed Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) produced a paper entitled 'What works? Career related learning in primary schools' which provided evidence of the benefits of career related learning for primary school children. The point was made that the importance of appropriate exposure to the world of work at primary level cannot be overstated. Children, it says, can form stereotypical views of the world from an early age and biased assumptions can lead to a narrowing of career aspirations and an inability to relate learning to a world beyond school. To quote the report:

'Ignoring the process of career development occurring in childhood is similar to a gardener disregarding the quality of the soil in which a garden will be planted.'

The DfE has now taken the thinking put forward by this paper to propose a strengthened emphasis on careers education for the under 11s.

On 5 January 2023, the minister for skills, apprenticeships and higher education, Robert Halfon, announced a new careers programme for primary schools. The aim of the programme is to:

'Open primary school children's eyes to the world of future job possibilities and challenge stereotypes'.

The intention is that by linking lessons in an age appropriate way to different careers training and skills, it will inspire pupils about the world of work. It will also provide

opportunities for pupils to meet employers and role models from a range of industries, helping to raise aspirations. This builds on a commitment already made in last year's Schools White Paper.

The scheme will be rolled out across 55 disadvantaged (Education Investment) areas of the country where school outcomes are the weakest. The new programme will support more than 600,000 pupils in over 2,200 primary schools and is backed by £2.6 million funding.

The programme will be co-ordinated by the CEC. They will be working with Teach First who will provide training and support primary school teachers in disadvantaged areas to deliver the scheme to their pupils. It will be delivered in 2023/24 by four careers hubs, by an additional ten hubs in 2024/25 and a further nine in 2025.

Secondary careers education

Mr Halfon has also given more details about the rollout of recent legislation – the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 – to enable pupils to learn more about the variety of career routes, including technical routes, available to them. Updated statutory guidance was published in January, entitled 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers'. This goes into detail about what is required.

The DfE is intent on ensuring that schools and colleges must act impartially and not show any bias towards any post-14 or post-16 education route, be it academic or otherwise.

In September 2018, careers hubs were launched across the country, each with a dedicated hub lead, bringing together a group of secondary schools and colleges with partners in the business, public, education and voluntary sectors to deliver the Gatsby benchmarks. By October 2022, 90% of schools and colleges in England had become part of a careers hub.

The DfE believes that there is still an imbalance in careers information, which means that in years 9 and 10 far fewer students have been spoken to about technical choices as opposed to academic routes, and only 4% of young people start an apprenticeship after their GCSE exams.

Existing requirements

The new legislation and guidance builds on the existing requirements of the Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022. It requires that:

- All schools and academies must secure independent careers guidance for pupils in years 7–13.
- All schools and colleges should meet the Gatsby benchmarks.
- Every secondary school should offer their pupils at least one experience of a workplace by age 16 and a further workplace by the age of 18, giving them a chance to understand the skills that are valued in the workplace.

The government insists that schools should promote a full range of technical options. It is vital, in their opinion, that all pupils are aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T levels, higher technical

qualifications (HTQs) and other approved technical education qualifications and can consider them alongside academic options when making decisions about their next steps.

Role of the governing board

The governing boards of schools and colleges should provide clear advice and guidance on which the school can base a strategic careers plan that provides independent careers guidance to pupils throughout secondary education. Every school or college should have a member of their governing board who takes a strategic interest in careers education and guidance and encourages employer engagement.

New requirements

From 1 January 2023, an addition to the law will ensure that all year 8–13 pupils have at least six opportunities to meet a range of approved providers of technical education.

The DfE asks all maintained schools and academies to make sure they have put in place arrangements to comply fully with these changes. As a minimum, schools must offer:

- Two encounters for KS3 pupils to be provided any time in year 8 or by 28 February of year 9. These are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Two encounters during KS4 to be provided any time in year 10 or by 28 February in year 11. These are also mandatory.
- Two encounters at KS5 that schools must put on offer any time during year 12 or by 28

February of year 13. These are optional for pupils to attend.

All six encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Provider encounters that take place outside school hours do not count towards fulfilment of the legal requirement for six encounters, although schools are of course encouraged to provide complementary experiences for pupils and their parents.

The new legislation also requires schools to set out in a policy statement the times at which access is to be given and explain how they will meet the new legal requirement to put on six provider encounters.

Ladder of support

The DfE has also introduced into the guidance a 'ladder of support and intervention' in relation to the provider access legislation. The ladder sets out a range of support, such as through careers hubs or the CEC, that will be made available to help all schools comply with the provider access duty.

The new guidance goes into detail about:

- Approaches to delivering encounters with providers of technical education and apprenticeships.
- Identifying a range of providers for pupils to meet.
- Considering the timing and content of provider encounters.
- Reviewing a school's provider access policy statement – the

guidance provides a useful model policy statement (annex A).

- Ensuring provider encounters are meaningful and of high quality.
- Involving parents and carers.

The new guidance provides information to clarify the role of middle schools in meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Ofsted

Inspectors of secondary schools will assess the quality of careers information, education, advice and guidance and how well it benefits pupils in choosing and deciding on their next steps. Schools are reminded that under the personal development judgment, Ofsted will be looking to see whether the school meets the requirement of the provider access legislation. If a school is found not to be meeting the requirements of the legislation, this could have an impact on the subsequent Ofsted judgment.

Post-16

At the post-16 level, the DfE has published a white paper entitled 'Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for opportunity and growth'. This sets out how the government proposes to reform further education so it supports students to acquire the skills needed in the British economy.

The white paper confirms that the DfE will continue to roll out careers hubs, careers leaders training, digital support and the Enterprise Adviser Network to extend the support to accelerate progress to more schools and colleges.

Holiday help

The government's holiday activities and food programme started as a pilot in 2018.

It was created in response to what the DfE describes as the pressures that many low income families can face over the school holidays, with

some children being less likely to access organised out of school activities, and more likely to experience social isolation and 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health. Evidence suggest that attending holiday clubs can have a positive

effect on children's attainment, health and wellbeing.

Last summer (2022) around 600,000 children from reception to year 11, who receive benefits-related free schools meals, were able to take part in the scheme and profited from

the government's holiday activity scheme across over 8,000 clubs, events or organised activities in England.

The DfE has now confirmed further funding for a holiday activities and food programme for 2023, with the aim of again supporting many thousands of children from low income families.

Just before Christmas 2022, the DfE announced funding of £200 million for local authorities to pay for the programme for 2023.

The Education Secretary Gillian Keegan said in a speech on 22 December 'Giving children access to

nutritious meals and fun, enriching activities over the holidays supports children's mental, physical and social development and offers them opportunities that they may otherwise not have, while helping parents who may not be able to afford similar childcare. It is fantastic to see that so many children benefitted from the programme last summer and I am delighted to announce the continuation of the programme into 2023'.

The 2023 provision

The 2023 free holiday clubs are designed to support parents with childcare costs over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays. Free nutritious meals will be

provided and enriching activities such as football play sessions and cooking classes.

The continuation of the holiday activities and food programme is part of the government's avowed commitment to support vulnerable families with rising costs due to global inflationary pressures, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

This programme runs alongside the Household Support Fund which makes small payments for food, clothing and utilities. This fund has recently been extended to March 2024 with an additional £1 billion to be used by local authorities to support vulnerable households.

Absence rates

The government released figures in January indicating the levels of pupil attendance in state-funded schools since the beginning of the current school year. The figures are derived from data automatically submitted to the DfE by participating schools. Schools will be able to compare this data with their statistics for the two previous autumn terms to see how much attendance rates match up with pre-pandemic levels.

A national level figure was published on 8 September 2022 and since then the pupil attendance dashboard has been updated fortnightly, thereby providing aggregate metrics on overall absence and reasons for absence estimated at national, regional and local levels. The figures relate to the attendance of pupils in years 1 to 11 in all types of state-funded schools.

Overall figures

The attendance rate across the academic year to 12 December 2022 was 92.2%.

Thus, the overall absence rate was 7.8%, which divides as follows:

- Authorised absence rate – 5.6%.
- Unauthorised absence rate – 2.2%.

By school type, the absence rates across the year to date were:

- 6.5% in state-funded primary schools.
- 9.3% in state-funded secondary schools.
- 13.5% in state-funded special schools.

For the week beginning 12 December 2022, however, the absence rate was 14.3%. This was largely driven up by illness absence which is in line with recent increased national rates of seasonal flu and other respiratory illnesses.

The breakdown for that week is as follows:

- 12.4% in state-funded primary schools.
- 16.6% in state-funded secondary schools.
- 20.7% in state-funded special schools.

The release also includes early estimates for the attendance of pupils who were in school during the first week in January 2023. The attendance rate across all schools

types was 93%, which is somewhat higher than expected.

Who to contact

CEFM provides a full range of services to schools. Information on our support services can be found at www.cefm.co.uk. We also provide information to subscribing schools via CEFMi, our Online Guidance and Information Centre, which can also be found at www.cefm.co.uk.

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