



Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 to provide additional funding to promote greater educational attainment & progress for:

- Children who are eligible for Free School Meals (or who have been eligible in the last 6 years)
- Looked After Children
- Children who have been adopted
- Children whose parents currently serve in the armed forces

The sum allocated to each pupil who comes into one of these categories is **£1900 for this year** (2014-15). The money is likely to be paid in instalments but the details of how this is managed will vary between local authorities.

Schools are required to use the money to raise standards of achievement for each pupil in receipt of the funds. They may be asked to show a link between the way the money is used and the on-going progress of each relevant student.

In the case of Looked After Children the money is managed by the head of Virtual School for the local authority responsible for the care of that specific child. These Virtual Schools monitor and promote the educational progress of Looked After Children in all the schools in a particular locality. A Virtual School Head teacher can hold a school accountable by ensuring each Looked After Child has a robust and effective personal education plan (PEP), including access to one-to-one support where appropriate.

Eligibility for Free School Meals is an important basis for receiving Premium Payments but one which may create problems for students at Langside School. Our students are all medically complex and only a minority take food orally (most take nutrition via some kind of tube). Families who are likely to be eligible are therefore unlikely to take the trouble to register for free school meals where their child could not eat the food provided. They might in this way miss out on receiving £1900 which could be used to enhance their child's learning.

Families are able to register for free school meals without being obliged to take up those meals. At Langside School we would strongly encourage any family who believe they may be eligible for free school meals to register and thereby secure additional educational funds for their child. Do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information or assistance with the registration process.

Pupil Premium Funding to date has been used to promote student well-being and involvement with learning activities e.g.

- One child has been helped with the cost of a special lycra suit which increases her core stability and gives her a greater awareness of her own physical presence in space; leading to a greater ability to focus on specific interactions and therefore engage with learning activities.

- Another student has been provided with 1 to 1 sessions in which she is helped to relax and achieve a level of calm which helps her to engage with learning activities.

Money has also been used to ensure pupils have access to new technology which improves their ability to access the learning environment e.g.

- Equipment & software relating to “eye-gaze technology” (which allows individuals with insufficient hand control to operate ICT by means of looking at specified areas on a screen).

The school welcomes the input of parents and carers in making decisions about the use of Premium Payment funds. Do not hesitate to contact us if you feel your child should be eligible for such funds or you have views about how such money should be employed.

It is intended that allocation of Pupil Premium monies will have positive outcomes, although these outcomes may be difficult to quantify. This is not because the benefits to a complex student will tend to be limited but because the impact of spending may be so all-encompassing it may prove difficult to track by any method other than staff testimony e.g. the child who is fundamentally more grounded because they are able to wear a lycra suit.

Evidence of outcomes may however be available through:

- Recorded progress with Communication targets
- Recorded progress with Cognition targets
- Recorded progress with Physical Development targets
- Recorded progress with Environmental Control Technology (ECT) targets
- Recorded progress with Personal, Social & Emotional Well-being targets
- Advancement through P Levels
- Statements from multidisciplinary staff
- Pupil case studies
- Annual Reviews
- Greater inclusion in learning activities
- Improved social interaction