



Pupil Premium (and recovery premium for this academic year) Overview 2024-25

Pupil Premium is additional to main school funding. It is used to address inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months. In February 2021, the government announced a one-off recovery premium as part of its package of funding to support education recovery. The recovery premium provided additional funding for state-funded schools. Building on the pupil premium, this funding will help schools to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting disadvantaged pupils.

Secondary schools receive £1050 pupil premium for each eligible student. The recovery premium (an additional £145 for each eligible pupil in mainstream education) will be allocated using the same data as the pupil premium. Schools decide how the Pupil Premium Grant is spent since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made in supporting individual pupils. We have a strong belief that quality first teaching is the priority to support students to improve their skills. Emphasis is placed on improving and investing in teaching and learning to ensure students get taught by a quality teacher rather than be withdrawn for intervention/ catch up.

Our aim is to ensure that provision is in place to help all pupils to achieve their potential by further increasing the focus on the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils. We aim to ensure that the provision for disadvantaged students is seen throughout everything we do at in terms of teaching and learning, and is not an 'add on' to what we already provide. Evidence suggests that pupil premium spending is most effective when schools use a tiered approach, targeting spending across 3 areas, with a particular focus on teaching, targeted academic support and wider approaches.

Around 65% of our students are eligible for Pupil Premium which is significantly higher than the national figure. Aspire Academy recognises that each individual student has different needs, concerns and aspirations and we aim to ensure the best outcomes for everyone irrelevant of their background and disadvantages. As outlined by the DfE, schools do not have to spend pupil premium so it solely benefits eligible pupils. It can be used to support other pupils with identified needs. Aspire Academy utilises the Education Endowment Foundation's pupil premium guide and wider evidence/guides to support effective use and implementation of the pupil premium funding. For some students, this may be supporting their progress in reading, whilst for others it may be providing support for individual music lessons, or University visits. The academy is committed to closing the attainment and achievement gap across a range of measures for our disadvantaged pupils particularly, and the additional funding will be used to support this aim.