

A Guide to Northamptonshire Pupil Premium Plus Funding

“Looked-after children are one of the groups of pupils that attract PP+ [Pupil Premium Plus] funding. This is additional funding provided to help improve the attainment of looked-after children and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.” (Page 19 of [Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children, 2018](#)).

- **The Northamptonshire Virtual School will devolve the yearly £2,345 entitlement per eligible Child in Care (CiC) to schools in 3 termly instalments during the 2020-2021 financial year¹.** Schools are no longer required to bid for PP+ funding as the **full amount** is devolved however this means that no ‘top-up funding’ is available to schools. Please note that Children in Care to **other local authorities** may receive their PP+ in a different way.
- Effective use of the PP+ is connected to short-term, aspirational SMART² targets which are reviewed within the child’s termly **Personal Education Plan meeting (PEP)** with clear reference to measurable outcomes. The primary remit of the PP+ should be to **advance and improve the child’s educational attainment**. Schools may choose to utilise the funding for extra-curricular activities if the school has identified that such interventions could directly benefit a child’s engagement with their learning.
- It is important to note that, unlike the Pupil Premium, PP+ eligibility should not be treated as an indicator of a young person’s current or prior socio-economic status, and does not necessarily indicate that the student in question is entitled to Free School Meals. However the extra funding provided by the PP+ is a recognition of the “**significant additional barriers**”³ faced by Children in Care.
- The PP+ should not be treated as a “personal budget for individual children”⁴; the funding is for the child’s school and the Virtual School to set in consultation with teachers, and must be planned with primary regard for enhancing and improving the child’s education.
- The PP+ can be spent on strategies⁵ to advance a child’s:
 - Academic achievement and progress.
 - Social, emotional and mental health.
 - Wider achievement (e.g. in an area in which the child is gifted and talented).
 - Transition into the next key stage and/or a new learning provider.
- **Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC)** are similarly entitled to **£2,345** of Pupil Premium funding, however this money is directly devolved to, and overseen by, individual schools; the Virtual School does not monitor or supervise how schools utilise PLAC funding, but can provide advice and guidance for schools, parents and carers regarding the education of PLAC.

¹ The PP+ will be paid during the following terms in 2020-2021: summer 2020, autumn 2020, and spring 2021.

² A ‘SMART’ target is one which is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

³ Page 21 of [“The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children \(2018\)”](#)

⁴ Page 19-20 of [“Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children \(2018\)”](#)

⁵ The Government recommends use of the [Education Endowment Foundation’s Teaching and Learning Toolkit](#), which provides examples of possible intervention strategies and their efficacy.