

Pupil Premium Plus (PPG+) Information

Croydon Virtual School has produced this guidance, and it draws on the current Department for Education (DfE) Pupil premium conditions of grant 2025-26 and statutory guidance for Local Authorities and Designated Teachers where Pupil Premium for children looked after is specifically referenced.

Pupil Premium Plus (PPG+) was introduced in 2013 and is separate from The Pupil Premium.

PPG+ funding is allocated to Virtual Schools based on the number of eligible children looked after as reported in the local authorities' annual statutory return.

PPG+ must be used to support the educational outcomes and to raise attainment of children looked after who are of statutory school age (Reception-Y11), and to help close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

The fund is managed by the Virtual School in each authority. Each Virtual School decides on how they want to process the funding provided. There is no requirement from the DfE for all Virtual Schools to distribute the funding in the same way.

Virtual Schools can decide to pass all the funding to school or retain part of the grant to fund activities that will benefit a group, or all the authorities' children looked after.

PPG+ does not have to be distributed on a per capita basis, given that CLA in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care. It is also not a personal allowance for each child.

Croydon processes PPG+ funding on the Financial Year as this is how we receive the funds from the DfE.

The release of funding is linked to the creation, and approval of, SMART targets within the PEP document. It is important that interventions to be supported by PPG+ are evidence-based and in the best interest of the child.

Targets should be SMART and include information on:

- Current situation – where is the young person now in their learning journey?
- Where should the young person aim to be in their learning journey?
- What improvement would you expect to see?
- What will help support your young person to make this improvement?
- How will success be measured?
- What is deadline to achieve this goal?

Early Years Pupil Premium Funding:

- Early Years funding for the year 2025/26 is £570.00 per eligible child
- Parents should complete the Voluntary Model Form to check the eligibility of Early Years Pupils.
- Funds are paid by the local authority to schools via the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- This funding is not administered by Croydon Virtual School

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-pupil-premium-model-document-and-letter-for-parents>

Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus Grant & 16-19 Bursary Funding:

Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus

Pupil Premium Plus is a grant for statutory school aged children in care aged 4-15. This funding ceases when the child reaches the age of sixteen & moves into Year 12 of their education. However, it is recognised that the need for support remains for a long as child or young person is in care.

Between 2021 & 2023 the DfE piloted a Pupil Premium Plus style grant funding scheme for young people who are Post 16 but still in the care of a local authority. An extension of the grant will run from April 25 to March 2026.

This grant is a smaller allocation than PPG+ and is intended to help young people progress toward sustained engagement in employment, education, and training. This fund is administered by the Virtual School via the completion of SMART targets within the young person's PEP.

16-19 Bursary Funding

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.

Bursary funding can be used to help eligible students with essential costs such as travel to and from school or college, to buy essential books, equipment, or specialist clothing (for example: protective clothing) required for the young person's individual study programme.

The Bursary fund is not intended to provide learning support this includes counselling, mentoring and extra-curricular activities that are not essential to the student's study programme. It is also not intended to provide support for living costs.

The 2025/26 allocation is £1,200 per eligible student. Students should only receive the amount they need to participate, and education providers must not automatically award the full allocation if the student does not need the full amount. Please check with individual colleges for their eligibility criteria. Education providers can draw the funding down by completing and submitting a bursary for vulnerable groups funding claim via the Student Bursary Support Service (SBSS) online portal.