

Pupil Premium Policy

The Valley Community School



Reviewed by: J. Leonard - September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Reviewed by	Section Number / Appendix Name	Date of Amendment
JL	Section 2 Legislation and guidance updated	July 2026
JL	5.1 Ever 6 free school meals updated to take account of changes from Sept. '26	July 2026

The Valley Community School

OUR VISION

“A world class centre of outstanding learning”

OUR MISSION

“Together we’re better”

Founding principles that underpin our philosophy of being truly inclusive

We aspire in all we do to ensure we create a culture of:

High Equity:

Narrowing the gaps between pupils in different socio-economic groups

High Achievement:

For all through rigorous challenge, adaptation and reflection

High Inclusion and Engagement:

Adapting and supporting narrowing and bridging gaps in achievement

High Expectations:

Of ourselves, our pupils and our families in effective partnerships

Our core values:

Acceptance

Fairness

Trust

Equality

Respect

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- **Provide background information** about the pupil premium grant so that all members of the school community understand its purpose and which pupils are eligible
- Set out **how the school will make decisions** on pupil premium spending
- **Summarise the roles and responsibilities of those involved** in managing the pupil premium in school
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2. Legislation and guidance

- This policy is based on the pupil premium [allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2025 to 2026](#) and guidance on [using the pupil premium](#), [virtual school heads' responsibilities concerning the pupil premium](#), and the [service pupil premium](#) from the Department for Education (DfE).
- In addition, this policy refers to the DfE's information on what maintained schools must publish online.

3. Purpose of the grant

The pupil premium grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces.

The school will use the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers.

We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential.

4. Use of the grant:

- Our spending strategy is research driven (Ofsted/DFE/Education Endowment Foundation - EEF)
- Quality first teaching and high quality professional development is always our first priority
- Addresses a wide range of needs, and take group and individual needs into account
- Select interventions that are practical, deliverable and proven
- Regularly review need of individual pupils at pupil progress meetings
- Follow a wave 1 – 3 approach (RAPs)
- We support families at multiple levels (pastoral/academic)
- Supplementary teaching to address gaps in learning
- Providing extra one-to-one or small-group support
- Employing extra teaching assistants
- Providing extra tuition where needed (for example, ahead of national assessments (SATs))
- Funding educational trips and visits
- Funding English classes for children who speak another language

We will publish our strategy on the school's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the school website, in line the DfE's requirements on what maintained schools must publish online and using the templates on GOV.UK.

Our pupil premium strategy is available here:

<https://www.thevalley.bolton.sch.uk/statutory/pupil-premium-policy/>

5. Eligible pupils

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible pupils in reception to Y6

Eligible pupils fall into the categories explained below.

5.1 Ever 6 free school meals

From September 2026, Free School Meals (FSM) will expand to all pupils from households on Universal Credit. Ever 6 FSM (the marker for pupil premium and school funding) will be separated from this expanded meal eligibility and will only apply to "Targeted FSM" (income under £7,400). It does not include pupils who received universal infant free school meals but would not have otherwise received free lunches.

Expanded FSM: Applies to any pupil whose household receives Universal Credit, regardless of income. This covers the meal alone and does not trigger pupil premium eligibility.

Targeted FSM: Retains the historic threshold (Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400). Only these students qualify for Ever 6 FSM, the pupil premium, and the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

5.2 Looked after children

Pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, a local authority in England or Wales for at least 1 day. Allocations will be provisionally based on the children looked-after data return in March of the previous year, and then confirmed in December of the current year based on the children looked-after data return in March of the current year.

5.3 Post-looked after children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

5.4 Ever 6 service children

Pupils recorded in the most recent October census:

- With a parent serving in the regular armed forces
- Who have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point in the last 6 years (as determined by the DfE's latest conditions of grant guidance), including those first recorded as such in the most recent October census
- In receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence because one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 Headteacher and Pupil Premium Lead

The headteacher and Pupil Premium Lead are responsible for:

- Keeping this policy up to date, and ensuring that it is implemented across the school
- Ensuring that all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and supporting pupils with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to the governing board on an ongoing basis
- Publishing the school's pupil premium strategy on the school website each academic year, as required by the DfE
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged pupils and raising attainment

6.2 Governors

The governing board is responsible for:

- Holding the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy
- Ensuring the school is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of pupils eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium
- Challenging the headteacher to use the pupil premium in the most effective way
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

6.3 Other school staff

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium
- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium, and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff

➤6.4 Virtual school heads

- Virtual school heads are responsible for managing pupil premium funding for children looked after by a local authority, and allocating it to schools. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - Identifying the eligible looked-after children and informing the local authority
 - Making sure methods for allocating and spending ensure that looked-after children benefit without delay
 - Working with each looked-after child's educational setting to put together a personal education plan, agree how pupil premium funding will be spent to meet the need identified in this plan, and ensure the funding is spent in this way
 - Demonstrating how pupil premium funding is raising the achievement of looked-after children

Virtual school heads are in charge of promoting the educational achievement of all the children looked after by the local authority they work for.

7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Pupil Premium Lead. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

