



Department  
for Education

# **Using the pupil premium, service premium or early years pupil premium in admission arrangements**

**Departmental advice for school  
admission authorities and local  
authorities**

**December 2014**

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# Summary

## About this departmental advice

This is advice from the Department for Education. It is non-statutory, and has been produced to help admission authorities wishing to give admissions priority for children eligible for a pupil premium. It should be read in conjunction with the School Admissions Code 2014, in particular paragraphs 1.39A and 1.39B.

## Expiry or review date

This advice will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

## Who is this advice for?

This guidance is for:

- School admission authorities
- Local authorities

## Main points

- The School Admissions Code 2014 provides freedom for admission authorities of all schools, not just academies, to give admissions priority within their oversubscription criteria to children eligible for a pupil premium.
- This is not a requirement - schools do not have to give admissions priority to these children.
- Schools can:
  - choose from which group or groups (Early Years (EYPP), Pupil Premium or Service Premium recipients) to give priority (for more detail on each, please see descriptions of the various pupil premia below and associated GOV.UK links)
  - specify a number or percentage of their published admission number. For example, this can be representative of the number of disadvantaged children resident in the school's local area; or they can prioritise a certain percentage of local eligible children;
  - limit priority to specific eligible sub-groups. For example, restrict the admissions priority to children currently in receipt of Free School Meals; or children in a catchment area;
  - decide the ranking given to the priority (after looked after and previously looked after children);
  - choose to give higher priority to EYPP/PP/SP eligible children of that faith than those not of that faith, if they have a faith designation.

## Implementing pupil premium oversubscription criteria

1. Ministers want to see high-performing schools admit a proportion of disadvantaged children that reflects the demographics of their local area. Disadvantaged children can lose out on a place at a good school even though it may be close by. This priority is designed to encourage disadvantaged parents to increase their ambitions and consider schools they might not otherwise.
2. Schools wanting to introduce this priority into their admission arrangements must consult on and determine the revised arrangements in the normal way, as required by the Schools Admissions Code. This change can be first introduced for schools' intake in September 2016.

3. If schools need to ask parents for evidence of their eligibility for the relevant pupil premium their admissions arrangements must include what they will require. As part of the process, local authorities or schools can include a tick box on the Common Application Form or Supplementary Information Form. Paragraph 1.9f) of the School Admissions Code 2014 allows admission authorities to take into account the financial status of parents eligible for the various pupil premia for the purpose of deciding priority against admission arrangements.
4. A parental consent clause will be needed for the local authority or child's current school to disclose pupil premium eligibility information for the purposes of a school application.
5. Schools should discuss with their local authority arrangements for using the Department's FSM Eligibility Checking Service (ECS). This service is normally used by local authorities for handling FSM applications from parents. The Eligibility Checking Service links to welfare benefits data held by DWP and HMRC and returns an "eligible"/"not eligible" result as to whether a parent is entitled to Free School Meals. Local authorities will use the ECS to check eligibility for the EYPP and should know which children attract the EYPP.

## Background Information

The **early years pupil premium** is additional funding to support disadvantaged three and four year olds in early years settings. Its aim is to close the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers by providing funding to early years providers to help them raise the quality of their provision. It will be available in all local authority areas in England from April 2015.

The **pupil premium** is additional funding given to state funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

Pupil premium funding is available to both mainstream and non-mainstream schools, such as special schools and pupil referral units. It is paid to schools according to the number of pupils who have been:

- registered for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last 6 years
- looked after by the local authority (in care) for one day or more
- those who have left local authority care through adoption, or via a Special Guardianship, Residence or Child Arrangements Order

The **Service Premium** is for children whose parents are serving in the Armed Forces. Service children as a group do not underachieve but the Premium is provided to meet their specific pastoral needs. It is paid to schools for those children who:

- have parent(s) who are currently serving in the UK regular armed forces;
- have parent(s) who served in the UK regular armed forces at any time in the last three years;
- have parent(s) who died serving in the UK regular armed forces and are in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or War Pension Scheme

For more detailed background information on the early years, pupil and service premia please use the links under 'Further information' below.

## Further information

### Relevant departmental advice and statutory guidance

Information on the pupil premium, service premium and early years pupil premium:

- [Pupil premium: funding for schools and alternative provision guidance](#)
- [Service premium: information for schools guidance](#)
- [Early years pupil premium: guide for local authorities guidance](#)

Raising the achievement of disadvantaged children:

[www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children/supporting-pages/pupil-premium](http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children/supporting-pages/pupil-premium)

[The School Admissions Code](#)



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