

NELC VIRTUAL SCHOOL



CHILDREN THRIVE WITH LOVE

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

**Guidance for the Use of Pupil Premium Plus
(PPG+) Grant for Children in Our Care
2026 – 2027**



Guidance issued 22/07/26

Reviewed annually

Department for Education Guidance

The Department for Education is very clear as to appropriate uses of Pupil Premium Plus (PPG+) In their guidance for Virtual Schools

- PPG+ money must be used for the benefit of the pupil's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP). The Pupil Premium Plus should be viewed as an investment in the young person's education which, by the time of the PEP review, will lead to positive outcomes measured via SMART targets.
- There is no automatic entitlement for the school to receive this funding for eligible pupils and the Virtual School Head (VSH) can pool funds or retain a portion of the full amount under the conditions of grant. The VSHs in most authorities retain a portion and use this in a variety of ways to support children to achieve good outcomes.
- The LA must be able to demonstrate how the PPG+ funding is raising the attainment and aspirations of children in care. The following guidance from NEL Virtual School is intended to support Designated Teachers, Social Workers, Independent Reviewing Officers and other professionals to make appropriate decisions about the uses of PPG+ when planning provision for children and young people who are in our care. It is of paramount importance that the Virtual School can monitor the efficacy of PPG+ spending through PEP documentation.

[Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children)

[Pupil premium: virtual school heads' responsibilities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities)

[Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children)

[The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#)

Our young people should be aware of the PPG+ and be able to voice their opinion on what they feel would benefit their learning (should they want to). The Child Views section of the PEP needs to be completed by or with the young person prior to the PEP meeting and referred to during discussions. Similarly, the parent, carer and corporate parents inc. social care teams and Independent Reviewing Officers should be given the opportunity to contribute.

PEP Completion and PPG+ Allocation Schedule

	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
PEP review meetings and paperwork fully completed by	4 December 2026	19 March 2027	2 July 2027
PPG received in settings by <i>(providing NEL are in receipt of a relevant supplier request form and banking details)</i>	5 January 2027	3 April 2027	24 July 2027

Appropriate Uses of PPG +

PPG+ must be used with the intention of improving pupil outcomes in terms of academic attainment, emotional well-being and progress. It should be used to provide something that school would not be ordinarily providing. Appropriate uses of PPG+ may include:

- Tutoring in curricular areas where children are not reaching age related expectations nor making sufficient progress from their previous key stage outcomes- including Greater Depth Standard KS2 to Grade 5+ GCSE. National research shows that one to one tuition has a disproportionately positive impact for children in care. Providing this will be a priority in the first instance.
- Research and evidence based intervention focusing on areas of the curriculum such as phonics, reading or mathematics – for examples see [The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#)
- Support in facilitating robust and enhanced transitions ie. into a new school at standard phased entry; Reception, Y6 –Y7, Y11 to post-16 or where an in year/ within key stage transfer has been necessary.
- Development of a school and community culture and evidence based relational approaches ie. Trauma Aware and DDP informed practices, PACE, Emotional coaching or such as detailed in work from the REES Centre [Resources | Rees Centre](#) and the ARC Framework [What is ARC? - ARC Framework](#)
- Activities to meet pupils' personal development needs where this may be a barrier to learning e.g. therapeutic activities, activities to develop friendships or to learn social skills
- Activities which encourage children who are in our care to be more involved and interested in their education e.g.
 - Activities to re-engage in learning based on their interests, where this is a PEP target.
 - Resources to encourage interest in curricular areas.
 - School clubs that teach skills e.g. music, sports, social skills.
- IT equipment which is needed by children to access elements of the curriculum or to support study skills – up to a **maximum contribution of £350**. Such equipment becomes the property of the child to support their education and should transfer with them in case of a school or home move.
- A contribution towards residential educational trips based on the curriculum where a pupil may not otherwise be able to participate.

PPG+ Cannot be Used to Fund:

- Support for foster carers; payments cannot be made directly to foster carers e.g. for horse riding lessons or other recreational activities
- School uniform
- Transport
- Before or after school wrap around childcare or breakfast clubs
- Basic equipment which should be supplied by school e.g. stationery, revision guides, text books
- To fund services that should be provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan
- A Statutory Assessment or support from health services.
- Interventions the school's own funding covers the cost of or that other children are receiving without cost
- To pay for the Designated Teacher (*Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 places duties on a governing body to designate a member of staff (the designated teacher) as having the responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children*)
- When the PEP document does not meet the required high-quality standard

** Please note the NEL Virtual School reserves the right to withhold future PPG if a PEP is deemed unsatisfactory following quality assurance.*

The Process of Making a Claim to NEL Virtual School

Schools with eligible children in years Reception to Year 11 could be allocated up to £500 per child per term agreed by the inclusion officer upon completion of a high-quality PEP (Personal Education Plan) which must include up-to-date attainment and progress data, and the child's views. Within the PEP meeting, education targets should be established and reviewed. This will then inform the additional funding/resources needed to help the school support this work with the pupil.

Requests for any additional funding (above the termly £500 and AWPU) can be made via a PPG+ Enhanced Funding Request form. The specific process for claiming PPG+ for children in the care of NELC is as follows:

- The use of PPG+ funding must be discussed at the PEP meeting and recorded in the PEP document. Individual costings should be provided for each intervention or resource.
- The request should be clearly linked to the pupil's PEP target/s and the action/s under each target.
- Each action should outline how it will further the pupil's educational outcomes to ensure that funding is channelled effectively.
- The impact of each spend must be reviewed at the following PEP meeting and this should be recorded on the PEP document.
- Requests for enhanced PPG+ should be emailed to the named Inclusion Officer for their agreement in principle – they will then be referred on to the Virtual School Head.
- Requests for enhanced PPG+ cannot be authorised until the PEP document has been finalised and distributed so that the request can be checked against the document.
- Schools will be notified of any request that has been declined; otherwise, agreed enhanced funding will be transferred to schools on a termly basis along with the general agreed allocation

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Early Years settings with children in care/children looked after attending are eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding. This not managed by the Virtual School. For information, please contact corrinne.wilson@nelincs.gov.uk

Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus

Local authorities in England receive grant funding to support expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred to extend support to children in care and care leavers at post-16. This may include; 1:1 tuition packages; equipment/resources **not generally funded through another bursary**; and guidance or direct support from a Virtual School inclusion officer for as long as a young person remains in or aspires to continue onto further or higher education.

For further guidance please contact virtualschoolnelc@nelincs.gov.uk