

Service Premium Policy

Review Date	Reviewer	Adopted	Implementation
	J Barker	25 February 2019	26 February 2019
September 2021	J Barker		

1.0 Introduction

The Department for Education introduced the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) in recognition of the specific challenges children from service families face and as part of the commitment to delivering the armed forces covenant.

The Government allows schools to decide how the SPP should be spent. We will employ strategies that we know are conducive in providing pastoral support to eligible pupils/students.

2.0 Eligibility criteria

Pupils attract the SPP if they meet the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- they have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service are classed as service children.

3.0 The purpose of the Service Pupil Premium

Eligible schools receive the SPP so that they can offer mainly pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

Mobility is when a service family is posted from one location to another, including overseas and within the UK.

Deployment is when a service person is serving away from home for a period of time. This could be a 6 to 9-month tour of duty, a training course or an exercise that could last for a few weeks.

4.0 How Service Pupil Premium differs from the Pupil Premium

The SPP is there for schools to provide mainly pastoral support for service children, whereas the Pupil Premium was introduced to raise attainment and accelerate progress within disadvantaged groups.

As a Trust we will not combine SPP with the main Pupil Premium funding and the spending of each premium will be accounted for separately.

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5.0 What we will use the Service Pupil Premium for

In order to support the pastoral needs of service children we believe that we are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of pupils for whom the funding is allocated.

We will consider how we may improve the level of and means of communication between the child and their deployed parents and encourage children to develop resources to share with their parents on their return, highlighting their achievements and day to day school life.

In addition, we may need to fund from SPP additional staff hours to support the needs of service children when they join the school as a result of a new posting, when a parent is deployed or in the event of a parent being injured or killed in action. This may include offering counselling and/or bereavement counselling.

The Trust will not use SPP to subsidise routine school activity (trips, music lessons etc.), however, we may choose to fund school trips just for service children, to help them enjoy their time at school and build a wider sense of community and understanding of the role their serving parent plays to help them cope with the potential strains of service life.

We reserve the right to allocate SPP to support any pupil/student the Academy has legitimately identified as eligible for SPP.

6.0 Impact

The Trust and Local Academy Council will monitor the impact of SPP, and an annual statement will be published on the appropriate Academy website.

7.0 Success Criteria

The success criteria for the SPP Policy are:

- Early intervention and support for pupils/students eligible for SPP funding;
- Effective support for pupils/students;
- Effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils/students.

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