

Service Premium Funding

Eligibility

The purpose of the service premium grant is to support children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces. It is to enable schools to provide mainly pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

Pupils are eligible for service premium if they are an Ever 6 service child. For 2019 to 2020, this means that either:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces, and this is registered in the January 2019 census **or**
- They have been registered as a service child in any school census since January 2014

Pupils also qualify for the premium if one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and they receive a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

The grant is only paid for pupils aged 4 and over in year groups reception to year 11. In the financial year 2019-20, schools will receive **£300** per eligible pupil.

Spending the grant

The conditions of grant for the pupil premium apply to the service pupil premium.

The DfE expects schools' spending of the service premium to benefit the pupils for whom it was allocated. However,

- The £300 allocation per pupil isn't ring fenced. That means you don't have to keep separate £300 pots for each eligible pupil
- You can use the funding to support a wide range of purposes, even if it benefits pupils not eligible for the premium (as long as eligible pupils **do** benefit)

Parents of eligible pupils don't have a legal right to dictate how the funding is spent, but because the funding is intended to help provide pastoral support specific to the needs of service children, as a school, we aim to work with families to understand their needs.

Examples of our provision include: focused Circle Time sessions with the service children from pre-deployment of the serving parent to share experiences with other children who are in a similar situation; class visits from the serving parents to raise awareness – at an age-appropriate level - of life in the Forces; access to storybooks in the classroom about military children; and use of specific resources from the 'Little Troopers' charity.