Pupil Premium Policy 2026-27

Status	**Non-Statutory**	**Date Created**	**14/10/2020**
Any other statutory names for this policy (where applicable)		**Date First Approved**	
Responsibility for this policy (job title)	**PP Lead**	**Date last reviewed**	**Autumn 2026**
Governors' Committee with responsibility for its review	**T&L**	**Frequency of Review**	**Annually**
Tick here if Bucks Policy attached in its entirety		**To be put on the website**	**Yes**
Approval necessary	**Committee**		

Principles

All members of staff and governors accept responsibility for 'socially disadvantaged' pupils and are committed to meeting their pastoral, social and academic needs within the school and the local community.

As with every child in our care, a child who is considered to be 'socially disadvantaged' is valued, respected and entitled to develop to their full potential, irrespective of need.

Overview

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is a government initiative that was introduced in 2011 to target resources on those students deemed to be from a financially disadvantaged background. In 2026 the Department for Education updated its eligibility criteria to expand Free School Meals (FSM) to all households in receipt of Universal Credit. As a result of this, there were further changes introduced such as the introduction of two benefit-based categories, Targeted FSM and Expanded FSM.

Targeted FSM: Covers households on Universal Credit earning £7,400 or less per year. This category continues to attract Pupil Premium funding, Ever 6 FSM status, HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) program access, and related benefits.

Expanded FSM: Covers all other households receiving Universal Credit (earning above £7,400). This category provides free school meals only and does not include Pupil Premium Grant or Ever 6 funding.

Following this, there was an end to the transitional protection and all schools must recheck FSM eligibility annually.

The PPG is provided for those students who are currently entitled to Targeted Free School Meals (FSM), or who have been entitled to FSM at any point over the past 6 years (Ever 6) and students who are looked after by the local authority (LAC). There is also a smaller provision for students whose parent(s) are currently serving in the armed forces to address the emotional and social well-being of these students.

This initiative is based on research showing that young people from low income families perform less well at school than their peers. These students can sometimes face challenges such as poor language and communication skills, less family support, lack of confidence and issues with attendance and punctuality.

PPG is additional to main school funding and is used to provide additional educational support to improve the progress and to raise the standard of achievement of students who are eligible.

Main barriers

Main barriers faced by disadvantaged students at Aylesbury High School

- Students' social, emotional and mental health which reduces their self-confidence and attitude to learning.
- Wider gaps in students' knowledge.
- Reduced access to resources due to a lack of understanding or reluctance to gain available financial resources.
- Lack of access to resources to supplement learning outside of the classroom.
- Access to extended learning opportunities.
- Restricted access to all the opportunities offered as part of our co-curricular programme due to distance from school to home.
- Lower than average PP numbers may lead to these students being inadvertently overlooked.
- Current financial situation.
- Lower co-curricular engagement
- Slightly higher number of behaviour marks
- Slightly lower than average attendance for students eligible for FSM
- Lower aspirations of some Pupil Premium students and the need to provide new career opportunities for them.

Provision

Aylesbury High School is recognised as an outstanding school where teaching is outstanding and teachers show high levels of commitment. This gives students from all backgrounds the best possible educational experience. We make use of the Pupil Premium funding to maintain a high

standard of teaching and learning and implement intervention strategies for those students who need additional support. AHS places significant emphasis on co-curricular opportunities and it is important that our PP students are facilitated to experience and make the most of these opportunities.

Our plans for 2026-27 are informed by reviewing the strategies implemented and barriers faced by disadvantaged students in the previous years, the barriers to learning post the pandemic and by research evidence. We use the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) Toolkit and findings from the Ofsted report 'The Pupil Premium: how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement' to research the most effective strategies to overcome students' barriers to learning. Below are the key points from our **3 Year Development Plan strategy**.

Academic Support
We aim to:

- Ensure PP students are supported by the PP Lead.
- Continue to have one to one meetings with students to explain funding, discuss extra curricular activities and how to request for financial support.
- Monitor PP students' attendance closely and encourage better attendance
- Monitor PP students' behaviour record and put interventions in place (e.g. help with uniform and equipment to reduce the number of behaviour marks
- Encourage students to attend Homework drop-in sessions (Mon and Wed lunch time).
- Consider providing Uplearn for all Year 10 and Year 11 PP students to assist with Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Provide opportunities for independent study both before and after school.
- Enhance parental involvement in learning and attendance, for example Pupil Premium Lead available at consultation evenings
- Provide identified students access to specialist staff to provide 1:1 support/ group intervention to improve students' literacy and numeracy skills.
- Provide tutoring in English and Maths where required
- Provide academic support to Year 12/13 students eligible for FSM.

Co-curricular Opportunities
We aim to:

- Provide a wealth of opportunities driven by our holistic education approach.
- Encourage and monitor engagement in co-curricular activities.
- Address all requests from the Financial Assistance Form in a timely manner.
- Embed career-related learning opportunities.
- Support PP students to find ambitious work experience placements through the Changing Education placement platform and our Alumni.
- Offer financial support for trips and music lessons

Service and Pupil Premium Pastoral Support
We aim to:

- Place well-being at the heart of all we do.
- Address students' social and emotional needs with the help of the newly appointed Wellbeing Assistant.
- Provide emotional support, advice, mentoring and guidance for PP students in order to raise their confidence.

Resources
We aim to:

- Continue to support the new Year 7 students with their chromebooks - new scheme introduced in order to minimise costs for parents.
- Continue to offer a £100 towards uniform for Year 6 on FSM and £50 each year.
- Provide resources, equipment and revision guides.

Success criteria

The evaluation of this policy is based on the educational development of the individual pupils who are entitled to the Pupil Premium. Aylesbury High School will use Pupil Premium funding to promote the achievement and progress of all entitled pupils, paying particular regard to the effectiveness of quality first teaching, targeted academic support and pastoral support.

The success criteria for the Pupil Premium Policy are:

- Reduce the gap in attainment between PP and all the rest of the students.
- Early intervention and support for disadvantaged students.
- Effective parental pupil school support.
- Having an effective system for identifying, assessing and monitoring pupils.
- Create a positive school atmosphere in which pupils' differences are recognised and valued as full members of the school community; developing confident and independent learners.

Please go to the Governance & Policies page of our website and click on Key Information and Policies to view the DfE PP Strategy Statement 2026-27.

Please also click on the link to view our Pupil Premium Page of the website.