

FAQs for FOSTER CARERS

PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS (PP+) and Post 16 PROVISION BUDGET for Kent CIC

September 2020

PP+ is a grant that the Department for Education (DfE) allocates with the aim of supporting vulnerable children to achieve as well as their peers. Each financial year the DfE has been awarding PP+ to Virtual Schools to support Children in Care to help enhance their achievement and progress. The child is eligible as soon as they come into Care and are aged 4-16 - and at the moment the PP+ grant is £2345 per child per financial year.

***PP+ can be requested at any time.
You don't need to wait for the PEP!***



- 1.** VSK Policy is that £1200 per CIC is paid to schools in 3 instalments during the year (£400 x 3)
- 2.** Extra PP+ can be requested – the PEP is a good time to discuss this
- 3.** Pre school settings receive £300 **Early Years Pupil Premium** per year in 3 x £100 instalments for children from age 3 until they enter school.

Find out more about PP+ on the VSK website
<https://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

Pupil Premium Plus – FAQS

Q. Can PP+ be used for out of school hours learning (OSHL) or for improving social and emotional mental health?

A. Yes. For example, dance or music lessons, gymnastics or horseriding can improve confidence, social skills and self esteem as well as physical health and mental well being which can then lead to increased engagement in learning.

Q. How do I request a PP+ spend and what information would I need to include in a request?

A. Foster carers can make requests at any time by discussing it with the Designated Teacher at school or by contacting VSK directly. This could mean contacting the Education Support Officer who usually attends your child's PEPs or the Fostering Education Liaison Officer to talk through your request.

If you are asking for funding for resources, interventions or tuition, then an idea of costs would be needed and you would be asked how this would benefit your child's learning outcomes.

The PEP is a useful forum to discuss use of PP+ because details of your child's progress and support needs should be available for the meeting and all interested parties are there together to talk about it.

Q. Is there any additional funding my child can access in Year 12/13 from VSK?

A. There is the **Post 16 Provision Budget** which can be applied for to provide extra-curricular activities to broaden and enhance the life experiences of our young people and where all other sources of funding have been utilised. There is no expectation that every young person will access this fund and it will be agreed on an individual basis, according to need. Applications could come into the following categories:

- Academic Achievement (to include one to one tutoring, part time courses, equipment and resources where the bursary is not enough to fund)
- Social / Emotional Well-Being (including Mentoring and Counselling)
- Employment, education or training enrichment activities (to include mandatory educational trips, accredited sporting/creative activities)
- Specialised equipment such as bicycles for young people with mobility difficulties
- Requests for laptops should be made via the Kent Pledge Laptop Application Form on the VSK website.
<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/the-kent-pledge>

Applications for funding will be considered by the Deputy Heads and discussed with the appropriate Post 16 Support Officer and Social Worker. Applications can be made at any point during the academic year; however it should be noted that the budget is allocated for financial years not academic years.

Tuition can be commissioned in a number of ways - the original request should be made via the VSK website and in consultation with the social worker. Tuition is limited to 10 hours per subject and then reviewed before an application to continue is considered. The application form can be found via this link:

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/post16provisionbudget>

Further information is available on the VSK Website

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

Q. How will I know what a school did spend PP+ on?

A. This is a question VSK staff also ask and we monitor this when we Quality Assure each child's PEP. It is a question you can ask the school yourself and you can also look on the school's website to see some general information about how that schools spends their PP+. OFSTED will look at how individual schools have used PP+ funding to ensure it has been spent correctly and this will be made public in their reports.

Q. How will I know whether my child benefited from a PP+ spend on an intervention?

A. This will be discussed during the PEP and if your child's attainment, confidence or engagement has improved, then it will most probably indicate that the funding was well spent.

Q. Is there a limit to a PP+ spend?

A. VSK try to consider requests as a 'good parent' would do because each child can have different needs at different times. It is to be expected that large amounts would need to be carefully considered and justified with clear impact measures to ensure good value for money and effectiveness.

Q. What funding can my child access in Year 12/13?

A. The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund can fund a young person up to £1,200 per academic year if studying fulltime to support them in participating in education. Please note:

- Institutions are advised that students should be awarded the amount of support they need to participate in education based on an assessment of need and the types of costs they have. They will not automatically award students £1,200 if the pupil is not assessed as needing the full amount.
- Institutions are encouraged to pay bursaries in-kind rather than cash as far as possible, for example travel passes, vouchers or credits for meals, required books and equipment .

This could mean that the 'termly payments' awarded in previous academic years may no longer be available. When their place is confirmed young people need to speak to the Designated Member of Staff at their college and submit their bursary application form as soon as possible for their assessment of need to take place.

The Social Worker will need to provide evidence that the young person is being supported by the Local Authority. Attendance and disciplinary issues may impact on any bursary payments and so make sure you and your young person are clear on any specific requirements that need to be met.