

Bedford College Academies Trust

Pupil Premium Policy

Status: Advisory	Member of staff responsible: Principal	Implementation date: May 2021
Issue No: 1A	Approved by: Wixams Academy Local Advisory Body	Next Review Date: May 2022

Our Vision

“The BCAT vision is to support students to achieve their absolute best whatever their ability or background. We aim to:

1. Work collaboratively to deliver an inclusive and outstanding education to all students, thereby driving up local standards.
2. Maximise social mobility and life chances, through the highest expectations of and aspirations for all students.
3. Encourage and support a range of high performing and distinctive educational establishments for local communities.”

Our Values

Student focus - We will seek to achieve a high quality learning experience for every student

High performance - We will strive for consistently high levels of performance in all aspects of our work.

Respect, openness and honesty - We will treat everyone with respect, encourage openness and honesty, and recognise each other’s contribution and achievements.

1. Rationale and aim

Bedford College Academies Trust (BCAT) is committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment.

The aim of the government’s pupil premium is to raise achievement among disadvantaged children and to support children and young people with parents in the armed forces. It provides additional funding for disadvantaged pupils to ensure they benefit from the same educational opportunities as pupils/students from wealthier families. BCAT is committed to ensuring that this funding is used appropriately and effectively within its academies.

2. Policy

The government has announced that pupil premium and service premium rates will remain unchanged for the financial year 2021 to 2022.

From April 2021, pupil premium allocations for mainstream and special schools will be calculated based on the number of eligible pupils recorded by schools in their census in October 2020.

Pupil premium provides additional funding for these groups of pupils/students:

Disadvantaged pupils

- a) Those registered for free school meals (FSM) plus those who have claimed FSM at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM') - receive £955 per pupil (years 7-11) and £1345 per pupil (Reception to Year 6).
- b) Looked-after-children (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority – receive £2,345 per pupil.
- c) Post-LAC. Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special arrangement by, an English local authority – receive £2345 per pupil.

Service Children

- d) Pupils in all year groups to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 Service Child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence – receive £310 per pupil.

Parents can claim FSM for their children, via their local council, if they receive benefits that include:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

3. How Pupil Premium funding is used

BCAT aim to use the additional funding to:

- Provide support to improve the progress and raise the achievement for these pupils/students.
- Narrow and close the gap between the achievement of these pupils/students and their peers.
- Increase social mobility.
- Make a significant impact on pupils/students' education and lives.
- Address any underlying inequalities between children eligible for pupil premium and others.
- Support with meeting costs of before and after school activities.

4. Strategies

- a) Pupil Premium income and expenditure will be clearly identifiable within the budget.
- b) The designated responsible person or Principal, in consultation with members of the Local Advisory Body and staff will decide how the Pupil Premium is spent for the benefit of entitled pupils.
- c) The school will assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils.
- d) The school will be accountable for how it has used the additional funding to support the achievement of those pupils covered by the Pupil Premium and the Principal will report to the Local Advisory Body and parents on how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims.
- e) We will publish online information about how we have used the Premium on our website.
- f) We will ensure that parents, members of the Local Advisory Body and others are made fully aware of the attainment of pupils covered by the Premium.
- g) We will seek to further develop strategies and interventions which can improve the progress and attainment of these pupils.
- h) We will track the impact of the strategies put into place through the funding to ensure that we can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled children.

5. Outcomes

This policy will play an important part in the educational development of the individual pupils who are entitled to the Pupil Premium. We will ensure that these pupils are treated equally and as favourably as others and that the additional funding is used well to address the challenges they face. The schools will use the additional funding to promote the achievement and progress of all entitled pupils. Through wise use of this additional funding we are fully committed to ensuring that the individual needs of each entitled child are met. As a result of the additional funding, these children will make better progress and achieve higher standards that would have been likely without it.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Academies are free to decide how to spend their pupil premium but are accountable for the impact this it has on the targeted group through:

- Data which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils/students compared with their peers both within the academy and nationally.
- The Ofsted inspection framework under which inspectors focus on the attainment of pupil/student groups, in particular those who attract the pupil premium.

7. Responsibility

The academy has a designated person responsible for pupil premium and its allocation.

- He/she will monitor, evaluate and review the impact of the strategies put into place through the funding to ensure that the academy can show the value that has been added to the education of the entitled children.
- He/she will report to the Local Advisory Body and parents on how effective the intervention has been in achieving its aims, including publishing online information about how the premium has been used. The report to the local governing body should include:
 - The progress made towards closing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils/students.
 - An outline of the provision made during the term since the last report.
 - An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils/students receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

All school staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis.
- Setting high expectations for all pupils, including those eligible for the pupil premium.
- Identifying pupils whose attainment is not improving in response to interventions funded by the pupil premium and highlighting these individuals to the senior leadership team.
- Sharing insights into effective practice with other school staff.