



Tonbridge Grammar School

Pupil Premium Policy

Statement

At Tonbridge Grammar School we are committed to promoting educational aspiration and supporting social mobility, making a positive difference to the life chances of students at and beyond the school. Our focus is to make sure that the educational experience is inclusive for all students by supporting and raising the attainment of disadvantaged students through their educational learning in school as well providing life opportunities through extra-curricular activities.

Overview

The Pupil Premium is received by the school by means of a specific grant based on school census figures for students registered as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Years 7 – 11 at Tonbridge Grammar School. For looked after children the pupil premium is calculated using the Children Looked After data returns (SSDA903). A premium is also received for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces. This service premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these students. The pupil premium is additional to main school funding and it is used by the school to address any underlying inequalities between disadvantaged students and all other students by ensuring that funding reaches the individuals who need it most. The school's pupil premium co-ordinator makes recommendations as to how the grant is spent and final decisions on spending are made by a member of the Strategy Group. The school's spending decisions are informed by research evidence, including the Education Endowment Foundation's Pupil Premium Guide.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the pupil premium [allocations and conditions of grant guidance 2023 to 2024](#), published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It is also based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [service premium](#).

Objectives

The pupil premium is used to provide additional educational or emotional support to enhance the progress and to raise the standard of achievement for these students. The funding is used to narrow and close the gap between the achievement of these students and their peers. The school uses the additional funding to address any underlying inequalities between children eligible for the pupil premium and others. The school endeavours to ensure that the additional funding benefits the students who need it most and that it makes an impact on their education and lives. The school recognises that not all students eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases the grant will be used to help students' progress and attainment so that they reach their full potential. Evidence shows that academically able students from disadvantaged backgrounds are most at risk of under-performing. These students should receive just as much focus as less academically able students.

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Review: Annually

Review level: Curriculum & Staffing Committee

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher and strategy group are responsible for:

- Ensuring all school staff are aware of their role in raising the attainment of disadvantaged students and supporting students with parents in the armed forces
- Planning pupil premium spending and keeping this under constant review, using an evidence-based approach and working with virtual school heads where appropriate
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of students eligible for the pupil premium to assess the impact of the school's use of the funding
- Reporting on the impact of pupil premium spending to trustees annually. In addition the Board has appointed a trustee with specific responsibility for liaising with the school to monitor the pupil premium strategy..
- Publishing the pupil premium strategy statement on the school's use of the pupil premium in each academic year on the school website, in line with the DfE's [guidance on using the pupil premium](#) and using the templates on GOV.UK.
- Providing relevant training for staff, as necessary, on supporting disadvantaged students and raising attainment

The Trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring the school is using pupil premium funding appropriately, in line with the rules set out in the conditions of grant
- Monitoring the attainment and progress of students eligible for the pupil premium, in conjunction with the headteacher, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the school's use of the funding
- Monitoring whether the school is ensuring value for money in its use of the pupil premium
- Setting the school's ethos and values around supporting disadvantaged members of the school community

The pupil premium co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Maintaining a register of students in receipt of pupil premium funding and Free School Meals and updating the student records accordingly in SIMS
- Promoting the pupil premium promise to families of current and future students;
- Liaising with the Finance Team to arrange payments as necessary

All staff are responsible for:

- Implementing this policy on a day-to-day basis
- Setting high expectations for all students, including those eligible for the pupil premium
- Using data to monitor students and implementing interventions where necessary

Strategies

The pupil premium grant is clearly identifiable within the budget. The school decides how the pupil premium is spent for the benefit of students. The school assesses what additional provision could be made for individual students.

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The school is accountable for how it uses the additional funding to support the achievement of disadvantaged students. The school reports to the trustees and parents on how effective the interventions have been in achieving its aims.

The school offers a pupil premium promise to those students in receipt of the grant. Decisions on pupil premium spending takes account of the school's context and the opportunities it offers within its pupil premium promise.

Students' individual needs are taken into account, as are the parent's views on the needs of their child. The school recognises that the needs of students taking up a pupil premium place (as part of the school's published Admissions Policy) may differ from that of a student who met the cut-off score for their admission year.

The DfE recognises that school leaders are best placed to assess their students' needs and use the funding to improve attainment, drawing on evidence of effective practice. Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual students and schools are not required to spend all of the allocated grant on eligible students. They can use it wherever they identify the greatest need.

The use of pupil premium funding is planned in line with the 'menu of approaches' set by the Department for Education. The menu has been developed in line with the EEF's 3-tiered approach to help schools allocate spending across the following 3 areas:

- supporting high-quality teaching, such as staff professional development
- providing targeted academic support, such as tutoring, including through the National Tutoring Programme
- tackling non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties in attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing

The pupil premium promise provides:

- Confidentiality: Assistance is given automatically with the minimum of fuss so that no family can be identified as receiving support
- Support with the cost of travel to school
- A grant of £120 per year - for compulsory school uniform
- A grant of £50 per year - for basic school sports kit
- A contribution towards one international trip
- Increased access to IT through the loan of a laptop
- Free essential equipment for lessons e.g. a calculator
- Free lessons to learn to play a musical instrument. This includes a loan of an instrument
- Free essential school trips: e.g. trips to theatres, museums and field trips which form part of teaching subjects in the curriculum
- Free residential trips in the UK in Years 7 and 9
- Free access to revision resources
- Free access to booster classes where appropriate
- Free access to individual advice and guidance in relation to career planning

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- Access to the DofE bronze award
- Support towards the DofE silver award

A Continuum of Support

Our pupil premium offer extends to the wider community through our Horizons Programme, offering opportunities for primary pupils to develop higher level numeracy, problem-solving, comprehension, literacy and verbal reasoning skills in preparation for grammar school. We are currently consulting on our admissions policy with a view to increase the number of places available for PP students.

Beyond the Horizon Programme we want *all* students to have equal access to all aspects of the 7-year TGS experience. The pupil premium Promise therefore extends to the [TGS sixth form promise](#) delivered through the 16-19 Bursary Fund, 16-19 Tuition Funding and contributions from the school's Debney Fund. Students in receipt of the pupil premium grant during Year 11 will also be eligible for the sixth form promise. This ensures that there is a continuation in the support offered. This enables every student to benefit from the full International Baccalaureate Diploma experience as a passport to future success and to fully participate in TGS school life.

Eligible Students on which the Pupil Premium Grant is calculated

The pupil premium is allocated to the school based on the number of eligible students in Years 7 to 11. Eligible students fall into the categories explained below.

- students who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years, including eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously looked-after children

In addition, the service pupil premium is available to students who have parents serving in the armed forces meeting the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces, including students with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service - this includes students with a parent who is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England
- registered as a 'service child' on any school census in the past 6 years
- one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Outcomes

Through strategic use of this additional funding the school is fully committed to ensuring the individual needs of each entitled child are met. We ensure that children in receipt of pupil premium are treated equitably and as favourably as others. The school uses the additional funding to promote the achievement, progress and life chances of all eligible students. As a result of the additional funding, we aim to secure progress and achieve higher standards than would have been likely without it.

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The pupil premium co-ordinator monitors the students who are specifically in receipt of the pupil premium grant in terms of their academic progress and involvement with enrichment activities. Contact is made with parents/carers on a regular basis to inform, discuss progress and review any new opportunities to support their child.

The Board of Trustees ensure that the school monitors, evaluates and reviews the success of the funding strategies and publishes a report on the school's website containing information about how we have used the pupil premium grant to address the issue of closing the gap for socially disadvantaged students across the academic year.

Appeals

Any appeals against this policy should be made through the Board of Trustee's complaints procedure.

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics. This forms part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Link Documents: Charging and Remissions Sixth Form Bursary Complaints Pupil Premium Statement	Link Guidance: pupil premium guide
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