

The Service Pupil Premium - A Guide for Stakeholders

Introduction

The Service Pupil Premium (SPP) is an allocation of £300 per child whose parents are connected to the military, which is paid to school. The purpose of this funding is to mitigate any detrimental effects that the demands of service life may place on pupils or their families.

Challenges

We are very aware that the military life experienced by our pupils has many wonderful aspects and presents our pupils with a diverse range of opportunities and experiences. However, many pupils will, at some point during their schooling, struggle with aspects of service life. This may be directly (e.g. experiencing distress or concern when a parent is away on deployment) or indirectly (e.g. through the disruption to friendship groups caused by the constant changes of pupils in the school).

A selection of the issues faced by service pupils can be found below, the effects of which we seek to mitigate with our SPP:

- Separation anxiety
- Struggles with maintaining friendships
- Gaps in learning (due to frequent moves)
- Social, Emotional, Mental Health needs
- Difficulties with transitions (either their own, or other's)
- Pastoral issues
- Concerns re: 'next steps' and future schooling
- Delays in information transfer (between schools etc.)
- Special Educational Needs requiring 1:1 support / additional help

At Leeming, these issues can be particularly acute, since 99% of our school's population come from service families. This is a very unusual situation for a Local Authority Maintained school.

Rationale

The rationale behind our spending of the SPP is to ensure that the funding supports the wellbeing of every pupil in the school. Whilst aspects of our provision may not be directly relevant to one particular child at a specific point in time, the pupil may well come to need this in the future. For example, a child may not have any parental deployments one year (thus not need the support of our Pastoral Mentor), but may experience this, and require support, the next. By using our SPP to provide such a mentor, the option is there for children whenever the need arises.

In addition, the hugely transient nature of our school population (72% mobility last year) means that the school faces different demands than those of other LA schools. As a result, the school has to fund certain provisions which other schools do not. Some of the SPP is therefore spent to address these issues, *which allows other funds* to be channelled into other areas. For example, by using some of the SPP to fund the additional administrative hours that are required to address the perpetual transitions in the school, we free up funding to provide additional teaching assistant hours to support children's learning in class, thus allowing all children to access more direct 'teacher time'.

Further Details

For further details of how the SPP is spent, please see our detailed breakdown on our website, or contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.