

What is the Service Pupil Premium?

The Department for Education (DfE) introduced the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) in April 2011 in recognition of the specific challenges children from service families face and as part of the commitment to delivering the armed forces covenant.

State schools, academies and free schools in England, which have children of service families in school years reception to year 11, can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently worth £310 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service)
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census since 2016, see note on the **DfE's ever 6 service child measure**
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Children have to be flagged as service children ahead of the autumn school census deadline. Service parents need to make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff.

DfE's ever 6 service child measure

The premium was extended, such that any pupil in reception to year 11, who has been flagged as a service child since the 2016 autumn school census, will continue to receive the premium (Ever 6 service child). Please see the [ESFA's pupil premium grant guidance](#) for more information.

Ex service personnel should tell the school if they left the armed forces within the last 6 years. Under the DfE's ever measure, schools will continue to receive SPP for up to 6 years for children whose parent(s) left the armed forces, provided the children were recorded as service children in a school census from 2016 onwards (prior to their parent(s) leaving the forces). The ever measure also applies when service parents divorce or separate or when a service parent dies in service.

The purpose of the Service Pupil Premium

Eligible schools receive the SPP so that they can offer mainly pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

Mobility is when a service family is posted from one location to another, including overseas and within the UK.

Deployment is when a service person is serving away from home for a period of time. This could be a 6 to 9-month tour of duty, a training course or an exercise which could last for a few weeks.

How Service Pupil Premium differs from the Pupil Premium

The SPP is there for schools to provide mainly pastoral support for service children, whereas the Pupil Premium (PP) was introduced to raise attainment and accelerate progress within disadvantaged groups.

Schools should not combine SPP with the main PP funding and the spending of each premium should be accounted for separately.

Naphill and Walters Ash

The Service Premium is to support the pastoral needs of the pupils. We employ Mrs Henig as our Family Liaison Officer in order to do this. She meets with all new children who join us either in September (excluding those starting in Reception) and throughout the year and complete the Bucks Passport. This is an 'induction' support for new arrivals; it aims to find out what they like/dislike about school, what their worries are and what they feel happy about etc. The children get a chance to meet with Mrs Henig and talk about the school e.g routines, timings and rules. She will often meet up with the children after a few weeks to see how things are going.

Mrs Henig supports any child and family when there is a deployment. She will work to support everyone involved and will support with contact and activities i.e making of Mother's day cards this year with some children whose mums were away. She equally remembers the parent left at home, who are just as important and will include them when there are special occasions too. If the deployed parent is able to provide an email address your child/children can send a weekly email to keep you up to date, and read any replied you send. We feel this support in school is essential as it lets the children know we care about what is going on in their lives. Mrs Henig will be there to listen to the children's concerns and worries during these times.

When a child is due to leave us (excluding Yr 6s leaving in July) Mrs Henig also completes the 'Exit' part of the Passport. This is designed so that the child takes something of themselves to their new school; something more personal than their records and books. If a child joins us and they have completed this when leaving a school we do look at it and use it to help to get to know them.

Mrs Henig helps parents through deployments and postings and will for example contact new and/or previous schools for information that may help us and the child. If needed some children may benefit with social stories which can be provided for your child to help them understand and familiarise themselves with their new school. Mrs Henig is happy to discuss any concerns a parent may have regarding their child's wellbeing, especially in these challenging times. Concerns/messages

can be passed through the school office, the class teacher or by contacting Mrs Henig on KHenig@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk

We do recognise that not all pupils will require support both pastorally and educationally, however we strive to use this funding to ensure that the needs of all pupils are identified early and the necessary support rapidly put in place.