

Service Pupil Premium

Information for Parents and Carers of Service Children

What is the Service Pupil Premium?

The Department for Education 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.

All State funded schools, such as Thomas Telford Primary Free School, which have children of service families in school years Reception to Year 6, 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 set at £310 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria

Pupils attract the SPP if they meet the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- They have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- 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

The purpose of the Service Pupil Premium

We receive the SPP so that we 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.

Therefore, we would ask that you inform the school, if your child will be experiencing separation from a family member due to their deployment. If we are made aware of this change, we can be responsive to your child's feelings at this time and if necessary, make adjustments to support them at school.

How Service Pupil Premium differs from the Pupil Premium

The SPP is there for us to provide additional support in recognition of the impact of mobility and deployment in the lives of service children, whereas the Pupil Premium was introduced to raise attainment and accelerate progress within disadvantaged groups.

On our website, you will find our Pupil Premium Strategy, which outlines the income we receive for service children and pupil premium children. The monies are combined to ensure we can offer all of these children the best possible experience whilst here at Thomas Telford Primary Free School.

What could the Service Pupil Premium be used for?

As we are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of our pupils for whom the funding has been allocated, we have flexibility over how we use the SPP in order to support the pastoral needs of service children. The funding could be spent on providing a variety of support including our counselling provision delivered by our pastoral mentor. In addition, staff hours may be required to support the needs of service children when they join a new school, such as ours, and as a result of a posting or when a parent is deployed. These hours could be funded by the Service Pupil Premium.

How will we use the Service Premium?

We will use the Service Premium to provide extra support for assessing and understanding service children's educational, social and emotional needs when they first arrive. This ensures work is pitched at the correct level.

The funding will also allow school to give help and support where it is most needed, such as reading support and reading intervention programmes, pre- teaching, maths interventions and individual phonic support run by our teachers or experienced TA team. This support is tailored to the needs of the pupil or pupils and can be provided in small groups.

It will partly finance the work of a pastoral mentor, whose role is to provide both proactive and reactive support for our vulnerable pupils. The service premium pays for a very, very small part of their salary. They act as a key worker for children who are struggling, meeting with them 1:1 throughout the week, and deliver targeted social and emotional programmes if required.

We hope that this information has provided further details regarding the SPP and how we will use it at Thomas Telford Primary Free School. As stated above, please do let us know if there are changes to the deployment of a service person within your family so we can facilitate the most appropriate support for your child.

Many thanks for your continued support.