

**Response to the Consultation on School Funding 2011/12 :
Introducing a Pupil Premium**

Consultation launched on 26th July, a further review of school funding which seeks views on the arrangements for the operation of a Pupil Premium and the distribution of the DSG for 2011-12. The consultation closes on the 18th October and is closely linked with Comprehensive Spending Review 20th October.

10 Questions were asked under two broad headings

Pupil Premium for disadvantaged pupils

1. **Do you agree it is right to give a higher pupil premium to areas that currently receive less per pupil funding**

Yes but maintaining current levels of DSG and not a cut.

2. **What is your preferred deprivation indicator for allocating the pupil premium**

Attention must be drawn to the limitations of FSM, with a large percentage of children that take sandwiches to school, when they could qualify for FSM but don't claim because of stigma. Parents do not realise that by not claiming they are damaging school's funding.

However Ever FSM does address the problem of pupils who move in and out of eligibility. However primary schools would be disadvantaged where there is no previous history to use. It helps secondary schools where it is known that take up of FSM diminishes with age.

3. **Do you agree the coverage of the pupil premium should include Looked After Children**

Yes but money should go to LA for distribution as appropriate.

4. **What are your views on the operation of the Looked After Children element of the pupil premium? In particular, how might the funding arrangements work at local authority level for pupils educated outside of the local authority with caring responsibility?**

Difficult to answer this one

5. **Do you think the coverage of the pupil premium should be extended to include additional support for Service Children?**

Yes.

Methodology for allocating school funding for 2011-12

6. **Should the pupil count for three year old used to allocate DSG for 2011-12 reflect actual take up or continue to reflect a minimum of 90% participation where lower?**

Continue to reflect a minimum of 90% participation where lower

7. **Should the pupil count used to allocate DSG for 2011-12 continue to reflect dual subsidiary registrations for pupil at Pupil Referral Units?**

No.

8. **Do you support our proposals for additional support for schools catering for Service Children?**

Yes

9. **Do you support our proposals for home educated pupils?**

Yes

10. **Do you think that there should be a cash floor at local authority level in 2011-12?**

No.

No figures have been made available for the Pupil Premium making discussion and planning very difficult. There is speculation as to the suggestion new money would be made available and significant issues for the centrally retained element of the DSG.

Important government makes best use of responses from May consultation, appreciate government has changed but it provides information that ought still to be made use of in creating a new formulae.

Concern on the funding of Academies that it will divert funds from other Schools and make it difficult for LAs to offer central services.