



Witham St Hughs Academy Service Pupil Premium 2023/2024



Witham St Hughs Academy is located on the site of RAF Swinderby that was closed in 1993 and has many RAF bases in the local area. Currently, the Academy has approximately 11% of pupils who are from a Forces family. Due to the nature of the surrounding bases, the academy has an extremely low number of pupils transitioning to alternate settings due to new postings, however deployments of family members are regular.

In April 2011, the Department for Education introduced the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) in recognition of the specific challenges children from service families can face. State schools, academies and free schools in England receive £320 per pupil that meets the eligibility criteria. The purpose of the Service Pupil Premium funding is 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.

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).
- They have been registered as a 'service child' on the January school census at any point since 2015.
- 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.

Service Pupil Premium

The Department for Education have guidelines for use of the spending and models of best practice as it is understood that the funding must be spent to meet the needs of each setting. Schools are held to account for the spending of this funding through the focus in Ofsted inspections on the progress and attainment of their wider Pupil Premium eligible pupil cohort.

What can the Service Pupil Premium be used for?

- Offer pastoral support during challenging times.
- Support during transition to new settings.
- Enable further communication with parents/carers who are deployed.
- To build a wider sense of community (e.g. trips, projects and social time to build relationships with their peers and Forces families).
- To gain a greater understanding of the role that their service parent plays to help them to cope with potential strains of service life (e.g. military specific trips).
- ***Service Pupil Premium cannot be used to subsidise routine school activity such as to trips, residential visits or music lessons.***

Total Planned Expenditure for 2023/2024 - £14,400

Summary of planned Service Pupil Premium 2023/2024	
<i>Forces families' events.</i>	£1000
<i>Lunch time forces book club</i>	£500
<i>Trips</i>	£350
<i>Transport</i>	£600
<i>Forces group projects for the school and community</i>	£640
<i>Member of pastoral support staff</i>	£11,310
Total	<u>£14,400</u>

Action Plan: Effective use of the Service Pupil Premium 2023/2024

Key Action	Objectives	Success Criteria	Cost
Parent survey	Survey to be sent to Forces parents and carers to capture and collate their feelings with regards with support that they feel will be beneficial from the academy. These will be provided at each family event this year.	Parents and carers of Forces pupils will identify areas that can be explored by staff to improve pastoral provision for pupils.	£0
Deployment tracker	Monitor and update the deployment tracker.	Information on deployments allows for support for pupils to be identified and put into place at an early stage.	£0
Library.	Maintain and promote the new Forces library to ensure pupils throughout EYFS – UKS2 have relatable and diverse literature that can be easily accessed.	Pupils will access literature when needed through the Forces lunch time club, classroom reading time or at home.	£0
Forces families' events.	Provide the opportunity for the families of forces children to meet after school. This informal evening will enable families and staff to build relationships. Food will be provided.	Staff meeting and building relationships with the carers of those pupils that belong to a Forces family. Families make connections with other Forces families in their local area (due to the school location not being local to a base).	£1000
Lunch time club	A weekly informal drop in session will be held by Miss James. Social games made available.	Pupils access this club when needed. Regular use of activities, books and social games. An outlet to provide emotional support for those that require it.	£500

Trips	<p>Forces pupils to be offered at least 2 trips an academic year. These can have military or community focus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For example- a visit to the International Bomber Command Centre to learn more about military life historically. - Community focused trips attending regional events with other forces pupils from different schools. 	<p>An understanding of the role their service parent plays (with military specific trips) to help them cope with the potential strains of service life.</p> <p>Build a sense of a wider community and relationships across the academy with all forces children to create a peer support network.</p>	£350
Transport	To provide transport to trips.	All forces children have equal access to the opportunities presented throughout the academic year. High take up of events.	£640
Forces projects	<p>To enable the forces group to lead and participate in a number of projects throughout the academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest speaker – an inspirational speaker to promote careers available in the military and to provide children not in military families with a greater insight. - Remembrance day – pupils will design and lead a whole school project to mark this occasion. - Armed forces day – pupils will design and lead a whole school project to mark this occasion. 	<p>Pupils will develop teamwork and leadership skills whilst bonding with their peers to create a sense of community.</p> <p>Profile of military careers raised within the school.</p> <p>Profile and understanding of military life raised within the school.</p>	£640
Member of pastoral support staff	<p>The school uses money received from the Service Pupil Premium to partially fund a dedicated member of staff with responsibility for oversight of the personal and academic development of service children.</p> <p>Social and emotional support is provided by our trained play therapist, Activities include Lego play therapy, drawing therapy and sensory therapy.</p> <p>All pupils who have a family member deployed will have the option of seeing this member of staff who is a trained counsellor for the duration, or as long as required. Children without family members who are currently deployed may still access this service if identified by the school or carers.</p>	<p>All forces children access sessions on a rota system with this member of staff.</p> <p>This member of staff is also available on the playground all lunch times.</p> <p>Pupils who require support will have immediate access to a qualified counsellor who will support them during school time. An outlet to provide emotional support for those that need it.</p>	£11,310