

Subject:	Pupil Premium Grant RBWM Admissions
Reason for briefing note:	<p>The Royal Borough and Achieving for Children (AfC) are committed to ensuring that Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) children receive the very best education and are working on new initiatives to ensure that this is the case.</p> <p>This note is the result of consultation with RBWM schools regarding the proposal that every school prioritises a minimum of 4% of their places for PPG children. This action arose from the previous School Improvement Forum.</p>
Responsible officer(s):	Clive Haines
Date:	26 th February 2020

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SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the response of Primary and Secondary Schools with regards to the proposal of changing the Schools admission policy to ensure all schools give priority to Pupil Premium Grant Children
2. The recommendation is that a secondary age task and finish group is setup to establish the details of the scheme for consideration by each of the admission authorities involved.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 RBWM through AfC are committed to ensuring that Pupil Premium Grant children receive the very best education and are working on new initiatives to ensure that this is the case. (See Annex A.) The proposal raised at the last School Improvement Forum was that every school prioritises a minimum of 4% of their places for the PPG children. It was agreed to raise the idea at Primary and Secondary Schools via School cluster meetings to test the interest.

2. KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 To continue to assist PPG children to achieve the best outcomes possible, this scheme could raise aspiration, providing some of the natural limitations were addressed.

3. OUTCOME

3.1 Primary School Feedback

- They agreed that it might be more appropriate at secondary level, where schools have quite varied offers and children are often transported to school.

- They felt that younger Pupil Premium children were better kept as part of their very local community at primary level as more support would be available for the families.
- They were concerns over some manipulation of the system by some parents in order to get their children into desirable schools. Their suggestion around this was that the criteria were made very specific, for example: receiving free school meals for at least one year and at the time of application, and not including Ever 6 which can be transitory.
- There is a challenge in Primary schools about knowing who the Pupil Premium children are before they start school. One suggestion was that the Pupil Premium entitlement questions could be added to the admissions form.
- The head teachers felt that in RBWM in particular, Pupil Premium children fall into 2 categories:
 - 'Typical' Pupil Premium demographic – deprivation, social isolation, financial concerns. These are generally in certain areas of town (Woodlands Park, Riverside and St Lukes, Wessex and some All Saints) They often have double or triple disadvantage – Pupil Premium, SEN, SEMH. This is considered to be the largest group,
 - One off situations leading to Pupil Premium e.g. death of a parent, business going bust or divorce. The needs of these families are very different and can be harder to meet. They often centre on mental health issues for both the parents and the children. They felt more training in this area would be helpful as most up until now has focussed on the first category.
- They also requested training which acknowledged the double disadvantage element.

3.2 Secondary School Feedback

- The chair of the secondary heads group suggested that all schools should consider this strategy as it aims to support the most vulnerable children in the Local Authority (LA). It is likely to be easier for secondary schools to adopt due to public transport arrangements which are already in place to support choice.
- For most schools this could be category 4 criteria after children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Looked After Children (LAC) and siblings.
- If this proposal was an LA wide initiative it would be likely to be more successful. The aim would be to support families to proactively apply for their choice of school ensuring parents to feel that their children are valued. The issues to be considered includes:
 - Implications for support with transport for the life of the school place (5 years).
 - Action in Primary years to make sure families register in time to be treated fairly in the process.
 - The use of PPM to support some of the wider inclusion issues for those coming from a wider area.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 To take this proposal forward we are recommending that a working party of officers and secondary head teachers is formed to develop a proposal and associated policies which can be supported by the Secondary Schools within RBWM and the Council.

Pupil Premium Grant Children (PPG) in RBWM

What is the Pupil Premium Grant?

The Pupil Premium Grant is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England. It's a school-level grant that gives schools extra resources to help them meet challenges, including those arising from deprivation.

It's allocated for schools to:

- Improve the academic outcomes of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities
- Close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers across the country

How do our PPG children in RBWM perform?

	2019 National	2019 RBWM	2019 RBWM Disadvantaged
EYFS (GLD)	72%	74%	55%
Phonics	82%	84%	64%
KS1 SATs:			
Reading	75%	80%	65%
Writing	70%	71%	55%
Maths	76%	80%	58%
KS2 SATs Reading, Writing, Maths combined	65%	67%	35%
KS4 Progress 8			- 0.34

Initiatives currently in place to support Pupil Premium children

Schools in RBWM already do a great deal to support children entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG).

Some of the key areas that schools focus their funding on are:

- Paying for Teaching Assistant support to e.g. run intervention programmes
- Paying for an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- Paying for Nurture support
- Using money to support paying for e.g. Breakfast Clubs / after school clubs / residential trips etc

Termly Pupil Premium Champion Network Sessions are well attended and help to share good practice.

The meetings focus on:

- Sharing up-to-date research on a range of quality first teaching strategies e.g. effective use of Teaching Assistants / Metacognition / Ability grouping
- Sharing good practice between colleagues
- Taking ideas for future training
- Sharing data and in-school PP planning documents

Feedback has been very positive and up to 30 schools have been represented at meetings.

Schools feedback this information into training sessions and this has supported communication between schools.

Early Years Foundation Stage Pupil Premium Project

This is the fourth year of the pupil premium project based in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The focus last year and this year is in Reception classes in schools. 14 schools have engaged in the project. Good Level of Development rose from 46% to 55% in the last academic year.

Project participants have:

- Shared good practice and networked
- Submitted data for analysis
- Developed an understanding of barriers, how to address them and measure impact
- Attended CPD sessions based on weaknesses in data
- Purchased resources to support individual pupils
- Shared development through the year
- Used Specialist Leaders of Education to further develop classroom practice

This year (date) we will continue to:

- Emphasise the use of research
- Ensure our project participants have a voice in the direction of the project

What is the new Admissions proposal?

Achieving for Children (AfC) are committed to ensuring that PPG children receive the very best education and are working on new initiatives to ensure that this is the case.

This proposal is for every RBWM school to give priority for at least 4% of places to PPG children.

RBWM would like to increase the options for the most vulnerable families who often have the least choice. Looked After Children have to be placed in a school which is good or better.

RBWM feel that PPG children should be given the same level of opportunity and increased choice. This would ensure that the responsibility towards these children was shared across the borough.

It would give families first choice over the school that will best meet their child's needs and therefore increase choice for these families where choice is often lacking due to so many external factors.

Priority over admissions for PPG children is currently given in the following settings only:

Braywick Court School up to 10% category 4

Holyport College up to 20% category 5

Grammar Schools in neighbouring authorities

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you in more detail at your next network meeting.