

ITEM x – Pupil Premium Grant – census date change impact

Schools Forum –

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is asked to:

To note the potential impact of pupil premium grant allocations in 2021/22 onwards as a result of the change in the census date

Members of Forum allowed to vote: - All school and academy members are able to vote. Only early years representatives from the non schools members are able to vote. Non-school members even if represented by school staff are not eligible to vote.

1. Background

- 1.1** Maintained schools in England get additional funding to assist in improving the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils through the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). The Department for Education (DfE) evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds, generally face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as their peers, hence the use of the deprivation factor to calculate the PPG.
- 1.2** The allocations for schools are based on the number of pupils they have in the following groups; free school meals (FSM or FSM6); looked-after and previously looked after children.
- 1.3** Eligible schools include all mainstream infant, primary, middle, junior, secondary and all-through schools serving children aged 5 to 16; schools for children with special educational needs or disabilities and pupil referral units (PRUs)
- 1.4** The DfE announced that the rates for the PPG would remain unchanged for the financial year 2021 to 2022 at £1,345 for primary age pupils or £995 for secondary.
- 1.5** However for mainstream schools from April 2021 the allocations will be calculated based on the number of eligible pupils recorded by schools in their census in the October 2020 (autumn census) rather than January 2021 (spring census) as was used in prior years.
- 1.6** PRU's and AP providers will not be impacted and will continue to be funded based on their January census data as the DfE accept the October census is not representative of the number pupils in PRU across a full academic year.

2. Change in census date impact on pupil numbers

2.1 Table 1 below shows the increase in pupil numbers claiming FSM over the four census periods reviewed autumn 2019 to spring 2021. There has been a steady increase in the eligible pupil numbers since the pandemic as is evidence by the increase of over 4% of the total pupil count becoming eligible for FSM despite the decrease in total pupil count for the same periods.

Table 1: The number of pupils registered for FSM

Period	Pupil Count (C&M)	FSM Eligible Count	Not FSM Count	Movement	FSM Eligible %	Not FSM Eligible %
Spring 2021	56,511	15,426	41,085	726	27%	73%
Autumn 2020	56,756	14,700	42,056	1,402	26%	74%
Spring 2020	57,019	13,298	43,721	433	23%	77%
Autumn 2019	57,001	12,865	44,136		23%	77%

2.2 Table 2 shows a breakdown of the number of eligible pupils by school type. By using the earlier census period the primary and secondary schools are most impacted by the change with 644 of the 726 increase eligible pupils coming from these two school types.

Table 2: FSM Eligible Count by school type

Period	Total	Primary schools	Secondary schools	Pupil referral*	All through	Special schools
Spring 2021	15,426	8,901	5,234	58	693	540
Autumn 2020	14,700	8,469	5,022	45	640	524
Spring 2020	13,298	7,913	4,305	70	558	452
Autumn 2019	12,865	7,611	4,226	55	545	428

*included for purposes of showing the full student count

3. Change in census date financial impact

3.1 Table 3 below sets out the amounts of PPG that schools would be funded based on the FSM pupil count from the autumn census. The impact of rolling back for primary schools is a reduction of 432 pupils and for secondary schools 212 pupil reduction.

3.2 Table 4 assumes the standard rate of PPG (£1,345 primary & £995 secondary) and making no assumptions for any variables around LAC etc where additional grant is attributed there is a shortfall of £792k for primary and secondary schools in Croydon in the 2021/22 year allocation as a result of the changes to the period used on which to calculate PPG

Table 3 Potential PPG based on census data pupil count

Period	Primary schools pupil no's	Total PPG	Secondary schools pupil no's	Total PPG
Spring 2021	8,901	£11,971,845	5,234	£5,207,830
Autumn 2020	8,469	£11,390,805	5,022	£4,996,890
Spring 2020	7,913	£10,642,985	4,305	£4,283,475
Autumn 2019	7,611	£10,236,795	4,226	£4,204,870

Table 4 Potential lost grant income by school type as a result of the changes

Period	Total funding £
Primary schools	581,040
Secondary schools	210,940
Total	791,980

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