

SERVICE PUPIL PREMIUM



What is Service Pupil Premium (SPP)?

- › SPP is extra funding for schools from the Department of Education to support children and young people with parents in the Armed Forces.
- › It is for children with parents currently serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service) and for bereaved service children who attend a state school, free school or academy in England.
- › SPP is different to the Pupil Premium.

Can any bereaved Forces child in the UK receive SPP through their school?

Unfortunately, not. There are some restrictions;

- › This premium is not for independent or Ministry of Defence (MOD) schools
- › Schools cannot claim SPP for children of reservists unless:
 - a) they were previously serving as a member of the Armed Forces and their children were recorded as service children on a school census since 2016 (whilst serving) eligibility would automatically continue.

b) If the parent is a member of the full-time reserve service (FTRS) on full commitment (FC), schools can record those children as service children on the school roll. FTRS FC personnel are classed as regular service personnel and are fully deployable.

The school will continue to receive SPP under DfE's 'ever 6 measure' for up to 6 years or until the end of year 11, whichever comes first.

- › Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have their own administrations and therefore have different arrangements.

For a state school, free school or academy in England to receive the SPP for a bereaved Forces child, the following criteria needs to be met:

- › The bereaved child needs to be receiving a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)
- › The bereaved child needs to have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census since 2016 – This needs to be done in January. Service parents need to make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff.
- › The child needs to be in years R – 11.



How does the school apply?

- ▶ Your child needs to be listed as a service child on the Schools Census. This needs to happen before the deadline in January.
- ▶ The premium is then applied for by the school in January for payments to start during the next school year in the September.
- ▶ More information for teachers and school staff about the SPP is available from the 'Service Children in State Schools' (SCISS) handbook (<https://www.sciss.org.uk/>) or they would be advised to contact the Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding (AFFS) at People-AFFS-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

What should the school spend the money on?

- ▶ The SPP is for the benefit of the service pupil and NOT for the whole class or school unless there are a number of service children at the school.
- ▶ It is to support the pastoral needs of the child and the school has flexibility over how they use the SPP.
- ▶ If you have spoken to the Head Teacher because you have a concern about how the money is being spent and haven't received a satisfactory answer, the best thing to do is to write to the School's Board of Governors.

Here are some great ways Scotty's suggests the money could be spent to help support bereaved British Forces children:

- 1 Provide staff with bereavement training including forces bereavement. This will help teachers to have a better understanding of how to support a bereaved Forces child.
- 2 Provide counselling for the bereaved child within their school environment.
- 3 Provide a Play Therapist to come into school to support the child.
- 4 Extra support being put in place when classes are working on difficult subjects/lessons; such as history, remembrance, coping with a loss. Certain lesson topics may bring back painful reminders of the circumstances surrounding the death.
- 5 Provide homework support groups for the bereaved child.
- 6 Provide extra tuition for the bereaved child to give them additional support.
- 7 Provide a peaceful memorial in the school grounds. The class / school could help plan the garden, the build, whilst providing the child with a peaceful setting to remember.

8 Provide resources such as memory boxes, interactive books, memory trees and jars and provide time for the child to talk encouraging the child to open up and share feelings.

9 Payment of a course / workshop within the school setting to help support the child's anxiety needs.

10 If the child has only just moved to the school from their Forces school, the funding could be used to provide settling in support.

I think my child is eligible, what should I do now?

- ▶ You will need to show the school proof of your child's Armed Forces pension or compensation scheme.
- ▶ Let your school know ASAP that your child is a bereaved service child and ask that this is registered on the school census in January to enable the school to claim the SPP to come in play for the following September.
- ▶ Make it clear you are talking about the SERVICE Pupil Premium and not the Pupil Premium, they are very different.
- ▶ If need be, hand the school this 'Service Pupil Premium Information Letter' from Scotty's Little Soldiers which will help explain the terms and conditions when applying for the SPP.
- ▶ It can be a little confusing for parents and school and some schools may have even been told that they cannot apply for this in the past. However as long as your child is receiving an Armed Forces pension or compensation and they attend a state school, free school or academy in England and are in years R-11 they will be entitled to it.