

# Our most commonly asked questions about the Service Pupil Premium - 2021

## Q What is the Service Pupil Premium (SPP)?

£310 per Service child to provide additional support in recognition of the impact of mobility and deployment on their lives.

## Q Is my child disadvantaged because they do not attract SPP in Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland?

No. Education is a devolved responsibility and therefore the Devolved Nations have developed their own systems for supporting Service children – it does not mean that your child will not receive the support that they need.

You can find links to more information in the downloadable comparison tables on the education page of our website. [raf-ff.org.uk/education/](http://raf-ff.org.uk/education/)

## Q Are children of reservists eligible?

If the Serving parent(s) are FTRS Full Commitment then their children are eligible.

No other form of Reserve Service is eligible.

## Q So what can schools spend the money on and how do we know what they are doing?

The funding is primarily designed to provide pastoral support

It is often more straightforward for schools with larger numbers of Service children, and hence larger amount of funding, to offer specific and widespread support but there are things schools with lower numbers can do too. See table below for a few examples.

The school decide what to spend the money on. We encourage them to have information available on their website although formal guidance on whether they have to do this is unclear. If you can't find the information, it might be worth asking the question.

## Q How do I get it for my child?

The premium is paid to schools and it is for schools to decide how it is best spent.

Let your school know that your child is a Service child before October each year (especially important if you have moved schools). The school submits the numbers to DfE in an October census return.

The school will not immediately receive the funding – it is paid to the new school in the September following the census in which the child is returned.

## Q Are our children eligible after we have left the RAF?

Yes – if your child has been flagged whilst you have been serving, they are eligible under something called 'Ever 6 Service Child'. As long as a child has been flagged as a Service child since 2016 (and prior to the Service person leaving the RAF) they will remain eligible for SPP for a maximum of 6 years or Year 11 (whichever comes first). The school does not need to return these children on a census, they will be automatically picked up by DfE and the premium paid, even if the child moves school.

## Q I don't think our school is doing anything for my child/Service children with the money – what can I do?

Try to have a constructive dialogue with the school. Share guidance material that you have access to with them.

Remember that the school decide how this money is spent and it won't necessarily be spent directly on your individual child (ren).

If that doesn't work then your best course of action is to write to the Board of Governors with your concerns.

[raf-ff.org.uk](http://raf-ff.org.uk)  
01780 781650

## Some examples of what SPP might be used for:

A teaching assistant or staff time for pastoral support ✓	Extra curricular club after school/lunch ✓	Settling in material for Service children ✓
Nurture/therapy groups ✓	Reading materials/subscriptions for Service children ✓	Time/resources to collaborate with other schools on support ✓
Uniform/meal vouchers ✗	Subsidy of routine school activity (trips, music clubs etc) ✗	New sports/play facilities ✗

## Some further information and resources:

There are lots of resources out there now about supporting Service children and you can find links to most of them on our website or give us a call.

[raf-ff.org.uk/education/](http://raf-ff.org.uk/education/)  
[gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium](http://gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium)  
[scipalliance.org/resources](http://scipalliance.org/resources)  
[littletroopers.net/](http://littletroopers.net/)  
[readingforce.org.uk/](http://readingforce.org.uk/)  
[mkcheroes.co.uk/](http://mkcheroes.co.uk/)  
[nff.org.uk/parental-absence/](http://nff.org.uk/parental-absence/)

