

Service Pupil Premium Funding Guidance 2025-2028

Coningsby St Michael's is part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT). The Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) is a Multi Academy Trust which was set up by the Diocese of Lincoln in 2013 to build a mutually supportive family of academies in Greater Lincolnshire who support each other in providing the very best outcomes for their pupils.

Our school is situated near RAF Coningsby, as a result, 34% of our pupils come from service families. Many of our school team have links with the base and have a wealth of knowledge within the local community.

As a member of this family the Government have set aside funds that is known as Service Pupil premium (SPP). It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that children may need and is currently worth £350 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

The purpose of the Service pupil premium

guidance specifies that the purpose of SSP is:

To offer mainly pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

Mobility is when a service family is posted from one location to another, including overseas and within the UK.

Deployment is when a service person is serving away from home for a period of time. This could be a 6 to 9-month tour of duty, a training course or an exercise which could last for a few weeks.

(DfE: Guidance on Service Pupil Premium: Updated Sept 2021)

The Government are very clear that SPP should not be used to subsidise routine school activity (trips, music lessons etc.). Schools may choose to fund school trips just for service children, to help them enjoy their time at school and build a sense of a wider community and understanding of the role their service parent plays (e.g. with military specific trips). This is to help them cope with the potential strains of service life.

We aim to ensure that no child is disadvantaged due to the service of their families. We want all our pupils to be kind, caring and tolerant so they develop into well rounded individuals ready to confidently participate in school and beyond.

How we spend the funds

Following extensive research on mental health and social and emotional wellbeing we have invested SSP funds in employing a dedicated and passionate learning mentor who will support our Service families. This support includes:

- To support families during periods of deployment (regardless of the length)
- Regular meetings with service pupils especially, but not exclusively when parents are deployed

Maintaining strong links with local communities including Benjamin Rossi Community Liaison Officer STEM

- Having a dedicated named member of staff to ensure families know who they can come and talk to
- New Pupil checklist completed and named mentor supports pupils and their families to settle in to the school community. Ensuring our rigorous processes are followed when pupils join or leave school
- Build strong relationships with our service families through coffee catch ups
- Supporting teachers of service children with their progress and attainment in comparison to the wider school community
- Our learning mentor to support with ELSA (Emotional literacy support) where needed for an initial 6-week period and then reviewed
- To support parents and offer guidance through regular meetings and check-ins
- Named mentor to ensure timely transfer of pupil records and liaising with other schools where needed
- Support with interventions: Mindfulness 4 You, Dog Therapy, Lego Therapy and Lunchtime clubs
- Supporting families in accessing other provisions either within school or with outside agencies (for example SSAFA, with the pastoral team)
- Wider support for families if they need help with wider issues such as, bereavement, divorce, separation, anxiety, and illness

This list is by no means exhaustive, but it shows the kind of support that is available. We use the SSP funds to close the learning, social and emotional gap that our families face and aim to work closely with them during these challenging times.

SSP funding is also invested in our MKC Heroes, run by our named mentor. Children attend a weekly club and we run special activities for them. Our pastoral team, made up of learning mentors and experienced teaching assistants work with children with the aim of achieving the following outcomes:

- Building resilience
- Improved self-esteem
- Ability to express their needs in a safe environment
- Support children with understanding loss and grief
- Reduce levels of anxiety at home and in school
- Understanding how their emotional and mental wellbeing can impact on their behaviour
- Improved behaviour at home and in school
- Improving friendships
- Improved attendance
- Membership of MKC heroes (military kid's club)
- Mutual support encouraged through membership of and trips organised by HMS heroes, for example, attending armed forces service day.
- Extra-curricular activities to enable service children to take part in certain activities that may not have been available to them due to the absence of one of their key adults.
- Forest school activities will provide a different experience: the children enjoy being able to learn outdoors and this will provide an opportunity to develop children's self-

esteem and confidence. It will also provide an outlet for emotional support to children who need it.

Impact of SSP spending

Through the employment of our learning mentor and additional teaching assistant evidence suggests we will see:

- An improvement in behaviour as children learn to manage their emotional
- Improved attendance as children will be happy in school
- Improved confidence and self-esteem as children have someone whom they trust to talk to
- Empathy with the struggles they may experience when they feel the pressures of being a member of a service family

The provision we provide allows all service families to access support through our dedicated pastoral team. We are here to talk, listen and advise if necessary. We welcome parental contributions and will hold yearly consultations with children, parents, staff, academy council members on how we can effectively use the funding.

Appendix

Deployment forms

Deployment Form for Families

Childs Name:	Childs Class:
Dates of Deployment:	
Place of Deployment:	Contact/ Email Address for person on deployment:

