

## **Service Pupil Premium**

### **What is the Service Pupil Premium?**

The Department for Education introduced the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) in April 2011 in recognition of the specific challenges children from service families face and as part of the commitment to delivering the armed forces covenant.

All State funded schools, such as Thorndown Primary School, which have children of service families in school years Reception to Year 6, can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently set at £300 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Pupils attract the SPP if they meet the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- They have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- One of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

### **The purpose of the Service Pupil Premium**

We receive the SPP so that we can 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.

### **How Service Pupil Premium differs from the Pupil Premium**

The SPP is there for us to provide additional support in recognition of the impact of mobility and deployment in the lives of service children, whereas the Pupil Premium was introduced to raise attainment and accelerate progress within disadvantaged groups.

We will no longer combine SPP with the main Pupil Premium funding and the spending of each premium will be accounted for separately.

### **What could the Service Pupil Premium be used for?**

As we are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of our pupils for whom the funding has been allocated, we have flexibility over how we use the SPP in order to support the pastoral needs of service children. The funding could be spent on providing a variety of support including counselling provision, nurture groups, clubs etc.

In addition, staff hours may be required to support the needs of service children when they join a new school, such as ours, and as a result of a posting or when a parent is deployed. These hours could be funded by the Service Pupil Premium.

We do not use SSP to subsidise routine school activity (trips, music lessons etc)

For 2020-2021, school has 7 pupils eligible for the Service Premium. With each pupil receiving £300 this gives £2100 in total.

**How do we use the Service Premium?**

In previous years we have used the Service Premium to provide extra support for assessing and understanding service children's educational, social and emotional needs when they first arrive. This ensures work is pitched at the correct level.

The funding has also allowed school to give help and support where it is most needed, such as reading support and reading intervention programmes, pre- teaching, maths interventions and individual phonic support run by our teachers or experienced TA team. This support is tailored to the needs of the pupil or pupils and can be provided in small groups.

We have financed the work of a part time Pastoral Child and Family Worker this year, whose role is to provide both proactive and reactive support for our vulnerable pupils. The service premium pays for a very, very small part of her salary. She acts as a key worker for children who are struggling, meeting with them 1:1 throughout the week, and delivers targeted social and emotional programmes if required. The Pastoral Child and Family Worker also provide some targeted staff CPD and runs our Lunchtime Club. She also has a role in settling and supporting the transition of our new children, and prepares our departing pupils for the next stage in their education. The funding has also been used to provide counselling services (play and music therapy) if necessary.

We run the Before and After School Club ( Kingfisher Club) and we can offer some free Kingfisher Club places for pupils to help with difficult shift patterns when parents are posted away. If this affects your family please talk through the support we can offer with the Head teacher.