

Pupil Development Grant formally known as Pupil Deprivation Grant

The Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) guidance for schools was introduced in 2012/2013 by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). According to their essential guidance, (2015),

"The purpose of the PDG is to improve outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals (FSM) and Looked After Children (LAC). It is intended to overcome the additional barriers that prevent learners from disadvantaged backgrounds achieving their full potential."

(WAG, 2015, p5).

WAG Timeline of PDG:

- 2012/13- PDG introduced.
- 2013/14- Extended to include LAC.
- 2014/15- Grant increased to £918 per pupil.
- 2015/16- Increased to £1050, and now including Early Years - £300 per 3-4 year old.
- 2016/17- Funding updated to £1150, now also available to children attending Pupil Referral Units.

(WAG, 2017, p19).

Kirsty Williams, Education Secretary for Wales, announced changes to the PDG to start in school year 2017/18, that the grants for Early Years will be doubled for learners in Foundation Phase (FP). This was part of her vision, "in taking Wales forward.. We are committed to ensuring every child in Wales gets the best start in life."

(Early Years Wales, 2020).

Using the Early Years PDG, every pupil starting Reception will be given a school Book Bag, a much used and needed piece of equipment, that isn't always provided by parents.

RWI 1:1 intervention in School A:

Approx. 20 children each half term, daily intervention with two trained staff members. All make at least 1 group progress – 100% success rate. Although ALN pupils may take 2 terms to show progression, this has been achievable at present.

Since introducing Thrive and other Pupil Support and Wellbeing measures, School A have seen a rise in children handling emotions in a more dignified manner, less arguments and fights in yards and classrooms and an all round better working environment, for both pupils and teachers.

Primary School in South Wales:

- Approx. 350 Pupils.
- Average over last three years on Free School Meals (FSM): 37%.
- 29% Identify as having Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
- 45% of pupils have English as an Additional Language (EAL).

(Estyn, 2018, p1).

For the purpose of remaining anonymous, the setting shall be now referred to as School A.

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained primary, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year.

(Statistics for Wales, 2020).

For the last school year, 2019/20, the PDG has been used for a number of reasons in the current setting, including:

- RWI 1:1 Interventions
- WellComm
- Thrive
- Reading Areas and Bookbags.

Thrive and Pupil Support: Part of the 2019/20 Budget was spent on training certain staff members on the Thrive Approach programme. Thrive, Initially conceived as a way of tackling the issue of school exclusions, the Thrive Approach now offers a whole-setting approach to supporting the right-time social and emotional development of all children and young people. (Thrive, 2020).

As well as PDG given to schools for children receiving FSM, Local Authorities also have Uniform Grants available to those families. Children starting Reception, Year 7 and Year 10 can receive vouchers to help purchase uniforms needed, ready for their starts in Foundation Phase, Key Stage Three and Key stage Four.

School A PDG allowance.



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