

THE PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT - A PARENT'S GUIDE

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WHAT IS IT?

Pupil Premium is a sum of money paid to schools in respect of every disadvantaged pupil on the school roll in January when the School Census is taken. This is extra money from Government for your child's school. The "Free School Meals" eligibility is used purely as a measure and there is no requirement to actually have a school meal. By letting your school know you are eligible, you are helping the school to provide extra facilities that it might not be able to afford otherwise.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any child eligible for Free School Meals currently and any child identified as 'Ever in receipt of Free School Meals' in the last six years. From April 2014, children in care will attract £1,900 additional funding per pupil. In addition, children will become eligible for funding from the first day of care; currently children have to be in care for six months before they attract funding. For the first time, children adopted from care and those who leave care under a special guardianship order or residence order will also attract the pupil premium plus. Children from full-time service families are also eligible.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

WHY SHOULD I CLAIM FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Your child's school will benefit from an additional £1,320 (Primary) or £935 (Secondary), this money will be spent by the school on a wide range of extra activities and initiatives designed to give disadvantaged children a better chance in life through education and in most schools, the money helps ALL children to some extent. Even if you don't want your child to have a free school meal, the money will still be paid to your school if you are eligible and you should still apply. Your school's website will have details of how Pupil Premium money is spent and this document is checked by Ofsted.

As all Reception and Y1 children now receive free school meals, it is vital that Parents tell the school that they qualify for free school meals, otherwise the government will not pay the extra money.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

If you receive any of the benefits listed above, make sure you tell your child's school as soon as possible. If you have previously received free school meals for your child (in the last 6 years) but do not currently receive free meals you should be eligible - check with school if you are unsure, they will greatly appreciate your enquiry.