



## WHAT IS THE PUPIL PREMIUM?

Introduced in 2011, the Pupil Premium is a government initiative providing additional funding to publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. These include pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals and those looked after by the Local Authority. The premium is provided in order to support these pupils in reaching their potential.

The government are not dictating how schools should spend this money, but are clear that schools will need to employ the strategies that they know will support their pupils to increase their attainment and 'close the gap'. Schools will be accountable for closing the gap and outcomes will be published in the school's performance tables that show the attainment of pupils who receive the pupil premium compared with their peers. They are called 'disadvantaged pupils' in data published after September 2014.

## IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE?

For **2018 to 2019**, schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years (known as Ever 6 pupils). The school receives £1320 for each of these children.
- Children who have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day - £2300.
- Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order - £2300
- Service children - Pupils in year groups reception to year 11 recorded as an Ever 6 service child or in receipt of child pension from the Ministry of Defence - £300.

## HOW IS IT SPENT?

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible.

Common ways in which schools spend their pupil premium fund include:

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for children within the classroom.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes.
- Running catch-up sessions before or after school, for example for children who need extra help with maths or literacy.
- Running a school breakfast club to improve attendance.
- Providing music lessons for children whose families would be unable to pay for them.
- Partially funding educational trips and visits.
- Paying for additional help such as speech and language therapy or family therapy.
- Funding English classes for children who speak another language at home.
- Investing in resources that boost children's learning, such as laptops or tablets.

However, some schools use their pupil premium in more creative ways. In the annual Pupil Premium Awards, recent winners spent their money on a bike for a child who was repeatedly late for school due to missing the bus, a nutritionist for a Year 5 child whose poor diet was causing behavioural and learning difficulties, and shoes and school uniform, including a PE kit, for a disadvantaged child in Year 3.

Often, all of the children in a class will reap some benefit from how the school spends its pupil premium: for example, if the money is used to fund an additional teaching assistant who works across the whole class, rather than providing one-to-one support. But research shows that the fund does help to narrow gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers, particularly in English and maths.

## CAN YOU INFLUENCE HOW THE PUPIL PREMIUM IS USED?

There is no obligation for your school to consult you about how they use the money they claim for your child, although some schools may involve parents. However, schools do have to show that they are using their pupil premium fund appropriately. This is measured through Ofsted inspections and annual performance tables showing the progress made by children who are eligible for pupil premium. In addition, they have to publish details online, including how much money they have been allocated, how they intend to spend it, how they spent their previous year's allocation and how it made a difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2018-to-2019/pupil-premium-2018-to-2019-conditions-of-grant>

## HOW TO CLAIM FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

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

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of 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
- Universal Credit

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child might also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

## Universal infant free school meals in England

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 qualify for **free school meals**, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would have qualified for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium funding.

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they are in:

- Reception class
- Year 1
- Year 2

Tell your local authority if you also get any of the above benefits. Your school can get extra funding if you do. If your child qualifies for free school meals, it's important that you let school know please, even if they take a packed lunch, as this enables them to claim pupil premium.

### **Registering could raise money for Oxspring Primary School**

Registering for free meals could raise an extra £1,320 for us, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed above. It is therefore important to sign up for free school meals, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, so that we receive as much funding as possible. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>