

Pupil Premium Grants

Information for Parents

September 2016



This leaflet covers:

- The Pupil Premium
- The Service Premium

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011. It is additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil considered to be from a 'low income' family. The money must be spent on these pupils to support their education, but it is for the school to determine how it is spent. The Department of Education website is a good source of additional information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

Why does the Government provide a Pupil Premium?

Poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils in low income families having low attainment by age 16. In 2014, only 36.5% of disadvantaged pupils achieved five A-C grades in GCSE's, including English & Maths, compared with 64% of their peers. The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address these underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

Who receives the Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is allocated to pupils in school year groups from Reception to Year 11 from low income families who are registered for FSM, or who have been registered for FSM at any point in the last six years, together with children that have been in care continuously for 6 months or more. Adopted children who have been in care continuously for 6 months or more prior to adoption are also eligible.

What is the Service Premium?

The Service Premium grant is for pupils who have a parent serving in the armed services. Unlike the Pupil Premium, this grant is not solely for raising attainment but for providing additional (mainly pastoral) support.

Who receives the Service Premium?

Pupils with a parent currently serving in the armed services and supporting their family, pupils who have a parent who died in action and those whose parents have left the service since April 2011 for other reasons, including injury. To be eligible, the parent must be supporting their family, so where they are separated or divorced a pupil will not be eligible.

How do parents register their child's entitlement for Pupil Premium?

Although all pupils in years R, 1 and 2 now receive free school meals as part of the Government's universal hot school meal provision, this does not mean that any child automatically qualifies for the Pupil Premium. **Parents must still apply for free school meals via the County Council.**

This is a quick and simple process:

Telephone Dorset Direct on 01305 221090,

or

email dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk with your National Insurance Number, date of birth, name and child's details and an eligibility check can be carried out using the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System. This will confirm if details have been matched or not. It will not tell the County Council what benefits you are in receipt of, dates when a benefit was awarded, or say how much you receive. It will just confirm whether or not you are eligible. Confirmation will be sent to you and the school within 5-10 working days.

Pupils do not have to take up their entitlement to a free meal but Local Authorities and schools recommend that they do.

The government is made aware of each pupil claiming FSMs each term via the school census so they have up-to-date information on those eligible.

Parents working in the services need to ensure that the school is made aware of this.

Further information can be found at: www.dorsetforyou.com/free-school-meals

How much are the Pupil Premium Grants worth?

The Pupil Premium for the 2016-17 financial year is £1,320 per pupil. For looked-after children this sum is £1900. The Service Premium is £300 per pupil. This is significant additional money for schools to spend on supporting disadvantaged pupils, and schools are very keen to ensure that all eligible pupils are 'signed up'. We need to ensure that our school is receiving the entire Pupil Premium funding it is entitled to so the children who are eligible are receiving the support they need. Grants are based on those pupils included in the January schools' census.

How should schools spend the grant?

Schools must spend the grant for the educational benefit of their eligible pupils. The grant can be spent on services that benefit pupils at the school or their families, in the locality in which the school is situated. Pupil Premium grants can be carried forward to the next financial year if all the money is not spent in the year in which it is allocated.

Examples of how the Pupil Premium is used at Mundeford Community Infants School:

- Twice weekly 1-1 tuition with a Senior Teaching Assistant to support reading, writing and maths progress

- SEN support if appropriate (this is discussed with the parents)
- Pastoral support sessions
- Additional Read Write Inc teachers
- Subsidising school trips
- Daily free school milk
- Daily free school lunch
- School uniform (3 free pieces a year)

Our data shows that the initiatives that this funding has enabled us to put in place have combined to close the gap between those children receiving Pupil Premium funding and their peers.

What is the role of the local authority?

For maintained schools, local authorities are responsible for passing on the Pupil or Service Premium to their schools and for managing its distribution in respect of 'Looked After' children. The Education Funding Agency, not the local authority, allocates the grant to Academy Schools but the eligibility criteria are exactly the same. However, neither organisation is responsible for how schools spend the Pupil Premium, except for pupils in care, where the local authority has responsibility for their wellbeing.

What obligations are placed on the school?

Schools need to monitor the impact of their selected approaches to improve provision for pupils entitled to the Pupil or Service Premium. The Pupil and Service Premium is not ring-fenced and schools are free to spend it as they wish to improve pupils' attainment.

How are parents informed about the use of the Pupil Premium grants?

The school's governing body publishes information on the school website every year on Pupil and Service Premium expenditure. For those parents that are not able to access the internet, a paper copy of this information can be provided on request. It details the funding received for the current academic year, as well as details of how it will be spent; there should also be details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent.

How are schools held accountable?

The Ofsted Inspection Framework ensures that inspectors look closely at the achievement of vulnerable pupils and, in particular, those who attract the Pupil and Service Premium. They have published a report about how the Pupil premium can be spent. This can be found on their website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-pupil-premium-how-schools-used-the-funding>

The Department for Education's performance tables detail the achievement of those pupils entitled to FSM and the Pupil Premium Grant(s). Individual pupils will never be identified through published information, this will only relate to groups of pupils, and in small schools numbers may not be published.

Individual school information can be found on the Department for Education's website at: www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/

Who should parents contact for further information?

If you think your child may be eligible to receive Pupil Premium funding, please contact Dorset Direct by phone on 01305 221090, or e-mail dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk Alternatively, contact the school office if you would like to find out more about registering your child for free school meals. This information will be held confidentially by the school.

The Headteacher, or the Chair of the governing body on behalf of the governors, can offer further information to those parents enquiring about the use of the Pupil Premium.

If you have any further questions, or wish to speak to the headteacher specifically about your child's Pupil Premium grant, please contact the school office to make an appointment.