



Pupil Premium Funding Parent/Carer Guide



What is the Pupil Premium Grant?

The Pupil Premium Grant was introduced in April 2011 as additional funding provided by the government to schools for each eligible pupil on roll. Its purpose is to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities, helping them reach their full potential, and to support children and young people with parents serving in the regular armed forces. The funding must be used to support these pupils' education, but schools have the flexibility to decide how best to spend it.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

Is my child eligible?

Schools receive a Pupil Premium Grant for:

- Children from low-income families who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM), or who have been registered for FSM at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6'), are eligible for this funding.
This grant is £1,515 per academic year for primary pupils and £1,075 per academic year for secondary pupils.
NB: Parents/carers must register their child to ensure the school receives this funding.
- Looked-after children (LAC) who are either in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority also attract funding. This funding is managed by the designated Virtual School Head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child.
This grant is £2,630 per academic year.
- Previously looked-after children (Post-LAC) who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England or Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order, or a residence order also attract funding.
This grant is £2,630 per academic year.
- There is also a Service Pupil Premium for each registered service child to help mitigate the impact of family mobility or parental deployment. This grant is £350 per academic year.
Parents must inform the school if their child is eligible for this grant.

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals (and all the Pupil Premium Funding will offer) if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (from September 2026 the eligibility criteria changes to remove the requirement for income to be below £7400)
- 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)
- 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

Is it worth applying for my child as they are under 7 and already get free meals?

Yes. Even though all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, registering for Free School Meals is still important. Doing so allows the school to receive Pupil Premium funding, which helps provide additional academic, social and emotional support for your child — and for others who need it most.

How is the Pupil Premium Grant spent?

Schools have the flexibility to decide how to spend their Pupil Premium Grant, as they are best placed to identify what will most benefit the children who are eligible. To make the best use of this funding, we pool the grant and use it to resource strategies that support the entire Pupil Premium cohort, and in some cases, benefit the whole school community. We carefully consider the individual needs of every eligible child before providing any additional support or intervention, and we greatly value the involvement of parents and carers in these decisions. When deciding how to allocate our funding, we draw on research evidence and national guidance to ensure that our strategies have the greatest possible impact on pupil outcomes.

Schools must demonstrate that the funding is used effectively. This is monitored through Ofsted inspections and annual performance data showing the progress of children eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. For a detailed breakdown of how we use our Pupil Premium Funding, please see the Pupil Premium Strategy document which is on our school website in the Key Information section and linked below.

<https://www.ashtongate.bristol.sch.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=22>

What might the Pupil Premium funding help my child with?

Pupil Premium funding helps schools provide additional support tailored to each child's needs. It can enhance academic learning, offer enriching experiences such as clubs, trips, and music lessons, and provide more personalised support to help every child reach their full potential. This support is not limited to but may include some of the following:

- access to enrichment clubs and activities
- subsidised educational trips and school camps
- peripatetic music lessons
- SEND screeners and assessments
- participation in in-school programmes that support learning and wellbeing
- access to wider curriculum resources and learning schemes
- staff training to enhance the quality of teaching and support.

While there is no formal requirement for schools to consult parents or carers about how Pupil Premium funding is used, we greatly value your input. At our school, parents and carers are welcome to contact us to request consideration for support through Pupil Premium funding. Funding or partial funding for this support is at the school's discretion and will be considered in line with the aims of our Pupil Premium Strategy.

Please send any enquiries to Lily Goodman. lgoodman@ashtongateprimary.org

How do I register for Pupil Premium Funding (much more than Free School Meals)?

Parents and carers can **apply online** through Bristol City Council:

<https://parent.bristol.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/travel-and-free-school-meals>

Alternatively, you can print and post the application form, with the postal address provided on the form. If you need any support completing the application, our school office team will be happy to assist you.