

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Pupil Premium exist?

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address inequalities by providing schools with additional funding to narrow attainment gaps between rich and poor pupils. Nationally one in four children comes into this category across the entire ability range.

Which children will benefit from the Pupil Premium?

Children from low income families who are registered for free school meals in both mainstream and nonmainstream settings, and children who have been looked-after continuously for more than 6 months.

What does the Government hope to achieve with this funding?

The Government considers the Pupil Premium to be a key element of their education reform and social mobility agendas. The Premium is intended to help schools provide targeted support to improve the life chances of the poorest children and young people. It will help children from low-income families to reach their full potential and to achieve higher grades.

This should enable them to progress to further and higher education, and ultimately lead to improved employment opportunities in the future.

How does the Government determine children should be considered to be underprivileged?

Under the Government's criteria, any child that qualifies for a free school meal is considered underprivileged.

Who actually receives the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium will be allocated to schools for pupils in mainstream settings, and schools will decide how best to use the funding for those pupils. For pupils in non-mainstream settings, it will be allocated to the local authority to decide how the funding should be used.

How much funding will each school actually receive?

This year, schools will receive **£1035** for every pupil registered for a free school meal and **£2530** for looked-after children. This will be based on January school census figures for pupils in Reception to Year 11 and for looked-after children on the children looked-after data returns.

Where does the money come from?

The Pupil Premium is paid by the Government and is in addition to your school's budget.

Can schools spend the money on what they like?

Whilst your school is free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit, they will be held accountable for how they have used the additional funding to support pupils from low income families. New measures will be included in the performance tables that will capture the achievement of those pupils covered by the Pupil Premium and from September 2012,

the Government will also require schools to publish online information about how they have used the Premium. This will ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the progress and attainment of pupils covered by the Premium.

If families register for free school meals to secure Pupil Premium funding, do they have to take up their meals?

The Pupil Premium will be paid on the basis of registration for free school meals, rather than on take up. However, the fundamental purpose of a free school meal is to guarantee a child a tasty, nutritious lunch every day, which has proven benefits for their health, their behaviour and their concentration in lessons. As a school working in the best interests of your children, it is important that every qualifying child is encouraged to both register for and take up that right.

What about children whose parents are serving in the armed forces?

A Premium has also been introduced for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces or have for the last 5 years – this is set at **£3335** for this academic year.

How do local authorities fit in?

Local authorities are responsible for passing on the Pupil Premium to schools, and for managing its distribution in respect of looked after children and children in non-mainstream settings. They may wish to look at how it's being used within their area, but there is no requirement that they have to do so. There will be some looked-after children that are not in mainstream provision and it will be the role of the local authority to use the Pupil Premium to support these children as per each child's personal education plan.

Why base the Pupil Premium on eligibility for free school meals?

Eligibility for free school meals is the only pupil-level measure of deprivation available and information on levels of eligibility is collected and updated annually. The link between school meal eligibility and underachievement is very strong. At every key stage, the average level of educational attainment for pupils who are eligible for free school meals is lower than for pupils not eligible for free school meals. Therefore free school meal eligibility is a good measure of identifying and targeting underachievement.