

What is Pupil Premium?



A Parent's Guide

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Pupil Premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children.

Who is it for?

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

Who Qualifies for Free School Meals?

A child may be able to get free school meals if their parent or carer receives 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: this is as long as you're not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' payment (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: this is as long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

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

Is it just about free school meals?

Even if your child does not want free school meals, the entitlement also provides the following benefits at our school:

- 1 free sweatshirt and polo shirt each school year
- Discounted price for school trips
- Possible additional resources and support in school

But children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 get free school meals anyway?

That's right, all children in Foundation and Years 1 and 2 can receive universal free school meals regardless of their family income, but only the children who qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria receive pupil premium and the additional benefits through our school.

Is my child entitled to it and how do I register?

It's really quick and easy. You will need your National Insurance number and the name and date of birth of your child. In most cases you will be told straight away if you are eligible.

Go to: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and search for free school meals
or contact the school office office@damers.wessex.ac