

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding received by schools for each pupil from disadvantaged families or background. It is allocated to schools based on the number of children who come from low-income families – this is defined as those who are currently known to be eligible for free school meals. It's important to know that a pupil does not need to have a school dinner, but the parents / carers must have applied and be entitled if they wanted one.

It also includes:

- pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years
- children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months or adopted children
- children who have a parent in the armed forces

First introduced in April 2011, the level of the premium in 2011-12 was £488 per pupil; it increased each year since then. This money is for schools to decide how to use but should be spent in order to improve educational attainment of children from less privileged backgrounds.

This is in line with government policy and funding. It is based on findings that show that, as a group, children who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in time have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible for FSM.

As our performance data has increased in recent years, so has the effectiveness of the support staff. Their role in class has become more targeted, to include children from low-income families, pre-dating the pupil premium initiative. It has also become more specific (for example, teaching assistants are required to work on specific learning objectives within clear time-frames) and ultimately more effective.

Our pupil premium for this year (2016/17) is £27,800. This money is being used to provide even greater, targeted support for those pupils who need to benefit. Staff are aware of which children are eligible for the pupil premium and provide additional, continuous targeted support for those pupils. Teachers are required to produce timetables detailing the different support activities: what the learning objective is, when the support will happen, who will lead the support (either the teacher or the teaching assistant) and who will benefit from the support. Pupils with entitlement to free school meals must be part of this.

The pupil premium is still an evolving initiative so we plan always to explore ways to spend the money as effectively as possible, and to monitor assessment information closely to assess what is working best.

If you require more detailed information regarding pupil premium please come into school and ask at the office.