



## The Bishop's Stortford High School

### The Parent's Guide to the Pupil Premium Grant



If your child is currently, or has recently been eligible for free school meals, they may also be entitled to a sum of money known as the Pupil Premium Grant, paid to their school to boost their learning.

#### What is the Pupil Premium Grant?

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil on roll to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential and support children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces. The money received must be spent on these pupils to support their education, but **it is for the school to determine how it is spent.**

For more information visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium>

#### Why is the Government providing the Pupil Premium Grant?

Poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils having low attainment by the time they leave school. 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 and narrow the attainment gap between them and their classmates.

#### Is your child eligible?

Schools are given a Pupil Premium Grant for:

- Children in school year groups from Year 7 to Year 11 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'). The school receives £955 for each of these children.
- Looked-after children (LAC) who are either in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority. The school is awarded a premium of £2,345 for these children, but is managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child.
- Previously Looked-after children (post-LAC) who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order. The school is awarded a premium of £2,345 for these children.

For more information visit the [Department for Education](#) website.

#### What is the Services Pupil Premium?

The school receives the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) of £310 for each of registered service child. Unlike the Pupil Premium Grant, this grant is mainly for the provision of pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment. Parents must inform the school if their child is eligible for the grant.

### Is your child eligible?

Schools are given a Service Pupil Premium Grant for children, where:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- They have been registered as a 'service child' in the school census at any point since 2011
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

### How is the Pupil Premium Grant spent?

**Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium grant**, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. At TBSHS, we carefully

consider the individual needs of every child prior to any additional support or intervention and greatly value the support of each child's parents or carers. Some of the ways in which TBSHS spends the pupil premium fund may include:

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for students within the classroom.
- Employing additional Pastoral Support staff to work with students and manage both pastoral and educational interventions.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes and support students with homework at daily Homework Club.
- Running catch-up sessions before, during or after school, for example for children who need extra help with mathematics or literacy and stretching the most able students and funding associated materials to support learning.
- Running programmes for Peer Reading, Peer Numeracy, Reading Comprehension and Peer Mentoring.
- Running a school breakfast club to improve attendance.
- Providing extra tuition for students who receive the pupil premium, for example in preparation for examinations.
- Providing music lessons for GCSE Music students only\*, whose families would be unable to pay for them.
- Contributing to the funding of educational trips and residential visits.
- Paying for additional help such as speech and language therapy or family therapy.
- Investing in resources that boost student's learning, such as laptops or tablets for use in school, textbooks, additional revision materials.
- Rewarding progress, such as fiction and non-fiction books, commendation teas, certificates of achievement.

*\* TBSHS is not affiliated with Hertfordshire Music Services and therefore, students are not eligible for discounted music lessons.*

For more information on the Pupil Premium Strategy Statement, visit the school website.

Often, **all of the children in a class will reap some benefit from how the school spends its Pupil Premium Grant**: for example, if the money is used to fund an additional Learning Support Assistant (LSA); who works across the whole class, rather than providing one-to-one support. But research shows that the fund does help to narrow gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers, particularly in English and mathematics.

### How are schools held accountable?

The Ofsted Inspection Framework ensures that their inspectors focus on the attainment of vulnerable pupils

and in particular those who attract the Pupil and Service Premium. They have published a series of reports about how the pupil premium can be spent, these can be found on their website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-effective-use-and-accountability>

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:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

### Can I influence how the Pupil Premium Grant is used?

There is no obligation for your school to consult you about how they use the money they claim for your child, although at TBSHS, we greatly value your support with your child's education. However, **schools do have to show that they are using their pupil premium fund appropriately.** This is measured through Ofsted inspections and annual performance tables showing the progress made by children who are eligible for the pupil premium grant. In addition, schools have to publish details online, including how much money they have been allocated, how they intend to spend it, how they spent their previous year's allocation and how it made a difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. This is available on the TBSHS Website.

### How do I claim my child's free school meals?

Your child may be eligible for free school meals, and accordingly pupil premium, if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Your child's school will be able to tell you what you need to do to register your child as eligible, or you can visit the Hertfordshire County Council website directly using the link below:

- Main page: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

**If your child qualifies for free school meals, it's important that you tell their school** – even if they take a packed lunch – as this enables them to claim the Pupil Premium grant.

### What is the role of the local authority?

Local authorities are responsible for passing on the Pupil or Service Pupil Premium to maintained 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 is

exactly the same. However, neither organisation is responsible for how schools spend the Pupil Premium, except for children in care, where the Local Authority has responsibility for their wellbeing.

### Who can I contact for further information?

Contact the Miss Wendy Butler (Assistant Headteacher), responsible for Inclusion at TBSHS or Miss Rachel Engel (Director of Finance), 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. We will also be able to direct you to any reports the school has produced relating to the use of the Pupil Premium Grant. Mr. Dale Reeve (Head Teacher) 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.

Contact details:

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