



The Bishop's Stortford High School



The Parent's Guide to the Pupil Premium Grant

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they may also be entitled to a sum of money known as the Pupil Premium, 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 improve the attainment of

disadvantaged children. The money must be spent on that pupil to support their education, but it is for the school to determine how it is spent. The Department of Education website is a good source of additional information:

<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 at age 16. 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 Reception 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 £1300 for each of these children.
- Children who have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. The school is awarded a premium of £1900 for these children.

What is the Service Premium Grant?

The Service Premium grant is for pupils who have a parent serving in the armed services. Unlike the Pupil Premium Grant, this grant is not solely for raising attainment but for providing additional (mainly pastoral) support.

Is your child eligible?

Schools are given a Pupil Premium Grant for:

- Children with a parent currently serving in the armed services and supporting their family, pupils who have a parent who died in action and those whose parents have left the service since April 2011 for other reasons, including injury.

To be eligible, the parent must be supporting their family, so where they are separated or divorced a pupil will not be eligible.

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. Some of the ways in which

TBSHS spends the pupil premium fund include:

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for students within the classroom.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes.
- Running catch-up sessions before or after school, for example for children who need extra help with mathematics or literacy.
- Running a school breakfast club to improve attendance.
- Providing extra tuition for able students who receive the pupil premium, for example in preparation for examinations
- Providing music lessons for students whose families would be unable to pay for them.
- Funding educational trips and 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.

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: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/search/apachesolr_search/pupil%20premium

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 Pupil Premium grant?

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

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)

- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal 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://beta.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>
- Online Application process:
https://www.hertsdirect.org/ufs/ufsmain?ebz=1_1461925056644&ebd=0

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 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.

Where 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.

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