

Pupil Premium – A Quick Guide

What is Pupil Premium?

In 2011 the Pupil Premium was introduced by the Government to help disadvantaged children. Children who qualify for free school meals could also be entitled to the Pupil Premium that gives money to their school to help their education. This government scheme aims to improve and close the gap in the educational development and performance of underprivileged children. The Pupil Premium can increase the educational quality that a school can provide to their disadvantaged pupils.

Who qualifies for the Pupil Premium?

Children can be eligible for the Pupil Premium for a variety of reasons. These include their family circumstances, such as their income or occupations, and whether or not they're in care. If a child is eligible, a school will receive the necessary amount of funding for each child per school year.

Any child that is currently receiving free school meals is eligible for pupil premium funding. It's incredibly

important that parents make the school aware that their child is eligible for this as it will automatically allow the school to receive extra funding that will go towards the betterment of their child's education.

A child's family circumstances are taken into account when determining whether or not they qualify for free school meals. To be eligible, they must be receiving one or more of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support as a result of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- 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
- Universal Credit (If a household is earning less than £7,400 per year.)

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It's also worth noting that if a child receives these benefits directly, rather than a parent or guardian, they are also entitled to free school meals. This can be the case if the child is in care or some form of guardianship programme.

How can you check or apply for Pupil Premium?

Applying for free school meals can save families over £470 per child, per year. Therefore, schools are recommended to encourage all parents to apply using the digital portal:

<https://caya-apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/Synergy/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

Families only need to apply once for the entire school life in a Derbyshire setting, as the council's database will follow the child as they move from school to school, and the team are able to run a check on all the data we hold monthly.

To apply, you will be required to register and provide:

- your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number
- your family name
- your date of birth
- you may also be required to upload a copy of your benefit document

For further information, please contact the Checking service:

email: checking@derbyshire.gov.uk

telephone: 01629 536481

