

Parent guide to the pupil premium

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they may also be entitled to a sum of money paid to Ibstock Junior School to boost their learning.

What is the pupil premium?

Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children.

This is based on research showing that children from low income families perform less well at school than their peers. Often, children who are entitled to pupil premium face challenges such as poor language and communication skills, less family support, lack of confidence and issues with attendance and punctuality. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.

Is your child eligible?

Schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives £1,320 for pupils in reception to year 6 for each of these children.
- Children who have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of £1900 per year.
- Your child may be eligible for free school meals - and accordingly pupil premium - if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Universal credit

Your child's school will be able to tell you what you need to do to register your child as eligible.

- There is also a Service Pupil Premium (SPP) for parents in the Forces or Services. Service personnel with children in State Schools in England must notify schools of their children's eligibility for SPP. The premium is currently £300 per child.

Ever 6

The Pupil Premium will be received for pupils for a period of six years regardless of whether they remain eligible for free school meals. Pupil Premium pupils are therefore often referred to as 'Ever6'. Even if your child temporarily has free school meals - even just for one day - they will continue to receive the Pupil Premium fund (Ever 6).

How is it spent?

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. There is no obligation for your school to consult you about how they use the money they claim for your child, although some schools may involve parents. Ibstock Junior School outlines spending of Pupil Premium funding on a separate document on the school website.

Research shows that the fund does help to narrow gaps between disadvantaged children and their peers, particularly in English and maths.

Reporting spending

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 pupil premium. In addition, they 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.

How to claim your child's pupil premium

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 qualify for free school meals, regardless of their family income, **but only the children who would have qualified for free meals under the above income-based criteria receive the pupil premium.**

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 pupil premium. Please ask at the office for a claim form.