

Pupil Premium

Purpose

The pupil premium grant is funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in state-funded schools in England.

The grant also provides support for children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces, referred to as service pupil premium (SPP). This has been combined into pupil premium payments to make it easier for schools to manage their spending. Pupils that the SPP intends to support are not necessarily from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

At St Benet Biscop Academy we pride ourselves on utilising the Pupil Premium to support our students with a specific focus on Numeracy and Literacy Intervention, Engagement, and Attendance, maximising the life opportunities for all students. How the Pupil Premium is spent is guided by the research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and is monitored closely with all schools accountable for the impact of the money spent.

Funding criteria

Pupil premium funding is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM)
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. It can be used:

- to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer
- for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils

Pupil premium funding is allocated to local authorities based on the number of:

- looked-after children, supported by the local authority
- pupils who meet any of the eligibility criteria and who attend an independent setting, where the local authority pays full tuition fees

For pupils who are looked-after children, funding should be managed by the local authority's virtual school head (VSH) in consultation with the child's school.

Funding rates for the 2024 to 2025 financial year

This table shows how the pupil premium grant is allocated to schools and local authorities in the 2024 to 2025 financial year, based on per pupil rates.

Funding criteria	Amount of funding for each primary-aged pupil per year	Amount of funding for each secondary-aged pupil per year	Funding is paid to
Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years	£ 1,480	£ 1,050	School
Pupils previously looked after by a local authority or other state care	£ 2,570	£ 2,570	School
Children who are looked after by the local authority	£ 2,570	£ 2,570	Local authority

Free school meals

The department of Education has suggested that at least 14% of students eligible for FSM are not claiming them.

It is very important that parents let us know if they are in receipt of any of the following types of benefits, as we will not be automatically informed by the local government:

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

You can apply either by:

- An online application at:
https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals
- over the telephone on FSM 01670 623592
- completing a paper application form which is available from any school or FSM Office
Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF