



St Mary's – Parent Guide to Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools to help all pupils reach their full potential regardless of their background or financial situation.

The grant is paid directly to the school and is used to improve the attainment of those children who are eligible. This can be awarded when families are in receipt of certain benefits. Pupil Premium families are entitled to claim for an annual school Clothing Allowance, help with trip costs, Free School Meals and Milk.

Is your child eligible?

Pupils may be eligible for funding if:

- They are registered for Free School Meals, or have been registered at any point in the past 6 years
- They are currently in Local Authority Care or have been for more than one day
- They have left Local Authority Care as a result of adoption, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order
- They have one or more parent serving in the Armed Forces.

Please apply even if your child is receiving the universal free school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, as the larger the number of eligible pupils who are registered to receive the Pupil Premium funding the more funding the school receives. If your child receives free school meals in the above years this does not automatically mean your child is receiving Pupil Premium funding.

How long will a free school meals award last?

For as long as your child continues to attend a Dorset school and you continue to receive one of the qualifying benefits. You are required to notify the Council of any changes to your benefit status which may affect your continued entitlement.

My child has just started school and already has brothers and sisters who get free school meals – do I need to reapply?

Yes, you need to reapply so that the new child can be included in the family's current free school meals award.

Who qualifies for free school meals?

Your child qualifies for free school meals as long as you receive any of these benefits:

- 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; this is as long as you're not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' payment (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: this is as long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The school doesn't see any information about your income.

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

Free school meals during Universal Credit roll-out

All children who currently receive free school meals will remain eligible until at least 31 March 2022. This also applies to any new children who are approved.

This means between now and 31 March 2022, you do not need to contact us to cancel free school meals, even if you feel your child is no longer eligible.

From 31 March 2022, any child receiving free school meals will remain eligible until they have finished that school phase, for example, a child in reception on 31 March 2022 would remain eligible until they finish primary school in 2028.

Applying for Pupil Premium funding?

Go to [Dorsetforyou.gov.uk](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk) and search for Free School Meals or use the link below:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you have any further questions or require help filling in the online information, please speak to the school office.

