

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium is funding allocated to schools to address underlying inequalities between identified groups of children and their peers.

What is pupil premium?

The Pupil Premium provides additional funding on top of the main funding a school receives. It is targeted at students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure they benefit from the same opportunities as students from less deprived families. The premium is worth £1,320 for students who at any point in the past 6 years have been in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM); £1,900 for any student who has been continuously looked after for the past six months or who has been adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or who has left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order; finally £300 for students whose parent/parents are currently serving in the armed forces or are in receipt of a pension from the MoD. The premium is worth £300 for any children who are eligible in EYFS.

How the Pupil Premium is spent is monitored closely with all schools accountable for the impact of the money spent. Pupil Premium in Willow Fields Primary is used predominantly to support our students with securing basic skills, supporting emotional well-being and family support, and encouraging engagement and attendance in school.

Why do pupils receive Pupil Premium funding?

Students who have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in their school career have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible. Historically, GCSE statistics showed that around a third of students who have been on Free School Meals in the previous six years achieved five or more A*- C grades, compared to more than two thirds of their fellow students.

How many pupils at Willow Fields Community Primary are eligible for the Pupil Premium?

Currently 99 pupils, out of a total of 164, (60%) of students at Willow Fields Community Primary are eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Is there an issue with eligible pupils not applying for FSM?

Some parents do not claim Free School Meals despite their children being entitled and therefore the Pupil Premium entitlement is not available to 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: Universal Credit, Income Support (IS); Income Based Jobseekers Allowance; An income-related employment and support allowance; Support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; Child Tax Credit (provided not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income not exceeding £16,190 or Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.

Since September 2014, all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for Free School Meals, however, it is still vital that parents inform us about their eligibility for these benefits, as it means the school will receive additional funding to support their children.

How will the impact of the spending of the Pupil Premium be measured?

To monitor progress on attainment, new measures are included in the performance tables that will capture the achievement of students covered by the Pupil Premium. However the data does not show other factors, for example where children covered by Pupil Premium also have Special Needs which will have an impact on data for some children or year groups. At Willow Fields Community Primary, the usual cycle of data collection and the monitoring and tracking of the cohort's attainment, will be used to inform student progress and enable the early identification of need, support and appropriate intervention.