

RESPECTFUL

RESILIENT

AMBITIOUS



BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

THE PUPIL PREMIUM

A PARENT'S GUIDE – 2024/2025

IN THIS GUIDE WE EXPLAIN KEY FACTS AND INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING. IF YOUR CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS, OR HAS RECEIVED FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN THE LAST SIX YEARS, THE SCHOOL MAY ALSO BE ENTITLED TO A SUM OF MONEY CALLED THE PUPIL PREMIUM PAID TO BOOST STUDENTS' LEARNING AND PROGRESS.

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
- We acknowledge that, for a range of circumstances, students may have gaps in their learning, progress, attendance or other areas related to school or home
- The Pupil Premium fund was introduced following research that shows that where families experience periods of low income children may perform less well at school than their peers
- In some cases, children who are entitled to the Pupil Premium may face challenges such as poor language and communication skills, lack of confidence, issues with attendance and punctuality or other difficulties. Equally, students entitled to the Pupil Premium may flourish at school and at home
- The Pupil Premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow any gap between them and their classmates. The Pupil Premium can also help widen opportunity and enhance the student experience.

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 £1050 for each of these children.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. School receives a premium of £2570.
- Children with a parent serving in the regular Armed Forces or a child who receives a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. School receives a premium of £340.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children whose families have a net income of £7400 after tax, not including benefits.

If your child previously received free school meals, but is no longer entitled, they will still receive Pupil Premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a student who has had free school meals in the past six years).

HOW IS IT SPENT?

- The Department for Education state that schools can choose how to spend their Pupil Premium money, as they are 'best-placed to assess their pupils' needs and use funding to improve attainment'.
- Evidence suggests that Pupil Premium spending is most effective when schools use a tiered approach, targeting spending across the following 3 areas:
 - Teaching – training and professional development for all staff to improve the impact of teaching and learning for all students
 - Academic support – student targeted, time-phased support tackling the barriers and issues that prevent students from succeeding
 - Wider approaches – to improve students' confidence, aspirations, resilience and opportunities
- It is important to note that schools can spend their Pupil Premium funding on students who do not meet the eligibility criteria but do require extra support.
- At Brookfield Community School, the way in which the Pupil Premium Funding is spent is outlined in the Pupil Premium Strategy Document on the school's website. This strategy document is updated each autumn term and is based on evidence from the Education Endowment Fund
- The Governing Body review and ratify the strategy document and policy.

Good teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Education Endowment Foundation Guide to The Pupil Premium

WHAT DOES BROOKFIELD DO TO SUPPORT OUR PUPIL PREMIUM STUDENTS?

Below are some of the strategies that we employ to help support and raise the attainment of PP students.

- Continued professional development of teachers is a key, ongoing priority at Brookfield. All teachers engage in in-school training sessions as well as having the opportunity to access the extensive Redhill Teaching Hub provision and specific, targeted external training.
- It is important that we target any support to meet the needs of the individual students. Form Tutors will meet with Pupil Premium students to discuss how they learn best and any barriers to learning that they have. This is followed up with meetings to monitor students' progress and set targets where needed. Parents will be informed of any targets set.
- The Key Academic and Pastoral Team meet regularly and discuss Pupil Premium students to identify any targeted support needed for students identified as having specific needs.
- Targeted, time-phased activities/support includes;
 - small group tuition
 - revision and study skills sessions
 - peer to peer support
 - assertive mentoring
 - engagement activities
 - counselling
 - accelerated reader
 - buddy mentoring
 - careers guidance
 - funding will be provided for PP students for essential curriculum trips, although a voluntary contribution may be requested
 - For non-essential trips, a deposit of up to 20% will be available upon request for PP students if required

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT?

- There is no obligation for schools to consult parents about how we use the money allocated for a child, however we are always keen to hear from parents about ways in which we can support their children.
- Parents can support their child in a number of ways, especially by talking to their child about school and their learning. Attending parents' evenings and communicating with school regularly also helps to improve children's outcomes and experience.
- Please encourage your child to take letters home about additional opportunities in school. If you feel there is a financial barrier to your child's participation in extra-curricular activities, trips or other activities that will enrich their experience at Brookfield – please e-mail Mr Stewart on n.stewart@brookfieldcs.org.uk

HOW TO CLAIM FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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.

You can sign up for free school meals at any time of year.

You or your partner can claim for your children, as long as you live at the same address. You do not have to fill in a separate form for each child, even if they go to different schools. Just name the child and which school they go to.

If another of your children starts school and one of your children already has free school meals, they can be added to the application you already have. Just call the Derbyshire County Council free school meals team Tel: 01629 536481 or 07812 475250.

If you think you are eligible to claim for free school meals please [click here](#) to access the Derbyshire County Council Free School Meal webpage. Remember, even if your child does not eat the free school meal the school still receives additional funds to support students with their education.