



Merley First School Pupil Premium Parent Guide

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium grant is funding which the Government gives to schools to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in England. The funding is not a personal budget for individual pupils and can be spent on whole school initiatives which will benefit the whole of the school community.

Poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils in low income families having low attainment by age 16. The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address these underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers and provides a 'menu of approaches' to support schools in making decisions about how it will be spent.

Who is eligible for Pupil Premium?

- pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) or who have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years
- pupils who are looked after by the local authority (LAC)
- pupils who have previously been looked after by the local authority are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus

Pupils from families entitled to certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. A list of these benefits and details of how to apply can be found on the school website [here](#).

What is Service Premium?

Service Premium is additional funding for schools with pupils who have parents serving in the armed services. This funding is primarily to enable schools to offer pastoral support and help mitigate the negative impact of family mobility or parental deployment. It can also be used to help improve the academic progress of eligible pupils if the school deems this to be a priority.

Pupils are eligible if:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- they are registered as a 'service child' on any school census in the past 6 years
- one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces

How is the Pupil Premium spent?

At Merley Pupil Premium funding is used:

- to support whole school initiatives such as Kinetic Letters, Drawing Club and Developmental Dialogue (staff CPD)
- to pay for additional support staff to lead structured intervention programs with eligible targeted children
- to provide pastoral support through social and emotional learning and where needed small group and one-to-one interventions
- to provide Outdoor Adventurer Nurture Group where appropriate



- to assist with payment for additional educational provision which families of eligible children could not fully afford, e.g. instrumental tuition
- to assist with payment for enrichment and extracurricular activities which families of eligible children could not fully afford
- to assist with payment for educational visits, including residential visits, which families of eligible children could not fully afford
- to assist with purchase of items of school uniform

What are children entitled to?

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium support, you can claim:

- 50% off the cost of school trips
- free attendance at Early Bird Club
- free attendance at one other club/extra-curricular activity (eg after school clubs)
- one free school sweatshirt or cardigan per year
- free milk
- 50% off music tuition

Pupil Premium however, is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend Pupil premium so that it solely benefits individual pupils. For more information about the Pupil Premium, visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium

If you think you might be entitled to any of the above, please visit the school website [here](#) or contact the school office for more information.

How can you apply for FSM (Pupil Premium)?

Although all pupils in years R, 1 and 2 receive free school meals as part of the Government's universal hot school meal provision, this does not mean that these children automatically qualify for the Pupil Premium. Parents must still apply for free school meals (FSM). To do this, please visit the school website here to complete the online application available through the 'Parent' tab or find it [here](#).

For more information

- contact the school office staff who will be happy to answer your questions
- go to the school website [here](#)
- Merley First School's Pupil Premium Strategy [here](#) (which is published on our website)



Useful contacts

The Department of Education website is a good source of additional information: [Pupil premium - GOV.UK](#)

Milk is free for all children under 5 and for those in receipt of Pupil Premium (FSM). If you would like to order milk for your child, you can find the relevant page by searching *school milk* on the website or alternatively go to: www.coolmilk.com or phone their Customer Services team on 0800 321 3248