



Pupil Premium 2026-2027

What is Pupil Premium?

The pupil premium grant provides funding to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in state-funded schools in England. It is an income-based entitlement.

What is the criteria?

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive universal infant free school meals. You do not need to apply.

Targeted Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to targeted free school meals if you receive one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Support through the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) scheme

Other support for children, such as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and extra help with school travel, will be based on targeted free school meal eligibility.

Schools also receive additional funding, known as pupil premium, for children who qualify for targeted free school meals.

You must apply to receive targeted free school meals.

Expanded Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to expanded free school meals if you receive Universal Credit and your annual household income is more than £7,400.

Children who qualify for expanded free school meals are not eligible for pupil premium.

You must apply to receive expanded free school meals.

How do I apply?

Apply through the Parent Portal. You will need to register for an account if you do not already have one.

[Portal Home](#)

You will be taken to the parent portal to register or log in first.

You will need your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth to complete the form. The form will take 10 minutes to complete.

Email address – freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone number - 0300 123 5012

Do I still need to register if my child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2?

Yes. Even though children in these year groups are provided with a fully funded school lunch (Universal Infant Free School Meals), this runs separately to Pupil Premium. Only the children who have qualified under the above income-based criteria will be in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Children in Care

A looked-after child is a child in the care of a local authority, often called a child in care (CiC). A previously looked-after child (PLAC) is a child who is no longer in local authority care but left care under a specific order, such as an adoption order, a special guardianship order (SGO), or a child arrangements order (CAO). Schools have a special duty to support both groups, often through a designated teacher, and provide them with additional funding like Pupil Premium Plus to help with their educational and emotional needs.

Service Pupil Premium

The [Service Pupil Premium \(SPP\)](#) is extra funding for eligible schools to support children from service families. It is used to provide pastoral support to help mitigate the challenges of family mobility, separation, or parental deployment.

Can I speak to somebody at school about this?

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