



Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium Funding and/or Free School Meals?

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil premium is additional funding for schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in schools. It is given to help children from low-income families, children who are in care or who have been adopted, and children with parents in the armed services.

How do we use Pupil Premium funding in school?

Pupil premium funding is used to support children in a variety of ways. Our pupil premium spending is tailored to the children in receipt of it. The list below offers a few examples of how we can use the funding:

- Additional academic support in a group or one-to-one with an adult
- Financial support for musical instrument tuition or after-school clubs such as sports clubs
- Financial support for educational trips and visits
- Professional development for staff to ensure high quality teaching
- Resources and equipment to support the children
- Financial support for school uniform
- Free school meals for children in KS2

Who is eligible?

Pupil Premium funding in our schools is available for children from Reception to Year 4. Following national changes introduced in September 2026, eligibility for free school meals is now split into two tiers:

Targeted Eligibility (Qualifies for both Free School Meals AND Pupil Premium)

Your child automatically qualifies for both Free School Meals and Pupil Premium funding if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit – provided your annual net earned income is no more than £7,400 (as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (corrected typo from Part IV)
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, you MUST still apply under this targeted criteria for the school to receive their Pupil Premium funding.

Expanded Eligibility (Qualifies for Free School Meals ONLY)

- From September 2026, eligibility has expanded so that ALL children living in households receiving Universal Credit are entitled to free school meals.
- If you receive Universal Credit and your household earned income is ABOVE £7,400, your child is now eligible for free school meals under the "Expanded" tier.

Please note: Children qualifying via the expanded tier do not attract Pupil Premium funding or its associated school perks (like uniform or trip subsidies).

How do you apply?

You can apply for Free School Meals by calling Central Bedfordshire Council at **0300 300 8306**. You will need to have the following information:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- your NASS number if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service

If you would like any additional information regarding Pupil Premium Funding, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Mason, Mr Kingham or Mrs Blunt.

