

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

In 2011 the Government introduced the Pupil Premium (PP) grant for certain groups of students to help them reach their full potential and to achieve higher academic grades at school. The funding is not necessarily given because a student is underachieving, but enables schools to address the national trend that PP students are likely to make less progress than their peers.

In the current challenging climate, we are aware that many more of our families may find themselves eligible for this support. We would urge any eligible families to apply for this entitlement.

It is not mandatory for parents to disclose this information to schools, only for schools to record the data they know to government. However, the reporting of this data enables the school to receive extra funding for these students, allowing better resources and targeted provision where needed.

The Government regards schools as being best placed to determine how this money is spent. We have chosen to spend the additional funding on a number of academic and pastoral intervention strategies. Further information regarding the PP grant can be found on our website: <https://www.wealdofkent.kent.sch.uk/quality-of-education/pupil-premium>.

Free School Meals

If your joint family income is less than £16,190 per year and you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, you are likely to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) for your child.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit (household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax and not including any benefits)

To apply for FSM, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

Students will remain eligible for PP funding for a further six years even after eligibility for FSM has ceased.

If you are in receipt of PP, you are entitled to receive financial support with purchasing school uniform. Please email financequeries@wealdgs.org

Please refer to the [Home to School Transport Guide](#) and school transport section of the [KCC website](#) for information regarding support available with transport costs.

Service Premium

The school also gets PP funding for students with parents currently serving in the armed forces or who have done so in the last six years.

Looked After Children Premium

The school also receives a grant for each pupil who is currently in the care of the local authority or who has left local authority care because of one of the following reasons:

- Adoption
- Special guardianship order
- A child arrangements order
- A residence order

If you have any questions regarding the Pupil Premium grant, please contact abeasley@wealdgs.org