PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is Pupil Premium?

- The Department for Education (DfE) Pupil Premium is additional, targeted government funding provided to state-funded schools in England to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and narrow the attainment gap between them and their peers;
- The Department for Education (DfE) in England collects pupil data used for pupil premium allocations three times a year through the School Census (Autumn, Spring, and Summer terms);
- This information is used to determine the level of additional funding the school receives for eligible pupils. We then ensure that this funding is allocated effectively throughout the academic year to provide targeted support and interventions that help those pupils achieve the best possible outcomes.

Where can I find more information on Pupil Premium?

Please visit the Government website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium

Is my child eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

The most common reason a pupil receives Pupil Premium funding at our school is because a parent or carer is registered as receiving a benefit that entitles them to free school meals. This is not the same as receiving a free school meal if your child is in Key Stage 1.

All children at Key Stage 1 access a free lunch through the Government's Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme (USIFSM).

This is different and separate from Pupil Premium Free School Meals (PPFSM), which provides funding for their education as well as free meals. Your child may be entitled to PPFSM if you are in receipt of any of the following:

Targeted Free School Meals (Includes Pupil Premium):

- Households receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earnings threshold of £7,400 or less (or other qualifying legacy/statutory benefits).

Expanded Free School Meals (No Pupil Premium):

- Households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income exceeding £7,400.

If you are eligible for PPFSM, please make sure you claim even if you have a Key Stage 1 child who already has a free meal. Claiming PPFSM means that a significant amount of funding will be provided to the school's budget which enables us to provide the best possible opportunities and support of all our children entitled to Pupil Premium.

How can I check if my child is eligible for PPFSM?

Children in Year 2 or Below

The Robert Drake Primary School is able to check eligibility for PPFSM using a simple, secure and confidential online process.

In order to determine whether you would normally meet the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals for your child(ren), please complete and return to the school office the 'Application for a Free School Meal / Pupil Premium Eligibility Check Form which is listed below. Please note, only the parent or carer can apply, so it must be their details that are provided.

Children in Years 3 – 6

If your child is in Years 3—6, Essex County Council has an online application form on their website: https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals.

Please follow the link and compete the form.

How much funding does the school receive?

In the 2026/27 financial year, schools will receive the following funding for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years:

- £1,550 from April 2026 for pupils in Reception Year to Year 6

Schools will receive £2,690 from April 2026 for each pupil who is 'previously looked after'; that is a child who has left Local Authority care for one of the following reasons:

- a Special Guardianship Order (SGO);
- a Child Arrangements Order (CAO);
- an Adoption Order (AO).

If a pupil has been registered as eligible for free school meals and has also left Local Authority care for any of the reasons above, they will attract the £2,690 rate.

How is the Pupil Premium Funding spent at Robert Drake?

Please read the information on the website which gives details of our Pupil Premium Grant and how we allocate the funding.

IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT IF YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING PLEASE SPEAK TO THE SCHOOL

July 2026

THE ROBERT DRAKE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

APPLICATION FOR A FREE SCHOOL MEAL / PUPIL PREMIUM ELIGIBILITY CHECK

You meet the criteria if you receive any of the following benefits:

Targeted Free School Meals (Includes Pupil Premium):

- Households receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earnings threshold of £7,400 or less (or other qualifying legacy/statutory benefits).

Expanded Free School Meals (No Pupil Premium):

- Households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income exceeding £7,400.

Please complete all sections of this form using black ink and BLOCK CAPITALS

Please return this form directly to Robert Drake.

Part one – details of parent / carer – Please use CAPITALS

Name of person receiving the benefit (must be parent or carer)	
Relationship to the child	
Date of Birth of parent / carer	
National Insurance number, or National Asylum Seeker Number	

Part two – details of children at this school

Number of children at this school	
Name and date of birth of child 1	
Name and date of birth of child 2	
Name and date of birth of child 3	
Name and date of birth of child 4	

PLEASE READ AND SIGN

Please confirm that you agree that we can use the information that you provide to process your claim for free school meals with Southend Borough Council.

The information you supply will be retained as a record. By making this application you consent for us to use the information in this way. You may withdraw your consent at any time by writing to us at the school address.

All personal details will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Parent / Carer signature: …… Date: ……