

PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

Once a year we provide the Department for Education with information that we hold about our pupils in a census return. Allocations are made based on the school which the eligible pupil attends at the time of the January school census. This information is used to determine the amount of additional funding we receive for specific pupils, and we then ensure the money is spent on those same pupils over the course of the school year.

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:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers 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 gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

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 Pupil Premium children.

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 complete the form.

How much funding does the school receive?

In the 2025/26 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:

- £1,515 from April 2025 for pupils in Reception Year to Year 6

Schools will receive £2,630 from April 2025 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 £2,670 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



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:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- 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 gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

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: