

## **Pupil Premium and Early Years Pupil Premium Explained**

In 2011 pupil premium was introduced by the Government as a sum of money given to schools each year to improve children's attainment. Pupil premium (know as PP) is sometimes called Free School Meals (FSM), although, in Southwark, all primary-aged children already receive a school dinner free of charge. The Government has also introduced an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) which is based on a similar criteria, which may be payable from the term after nursery children are 3 years old.

Schools are responsible for recording the children who are eligible for PP in the school census. All our parents are asked to sign a consent form when their children start at the school or nursery, in order for St James' to check eligibility on your behalf. We input parents' dates of birth and national insurance numbers into the London Grid for Learning Eligibility Checker. This information, twinned with your child's name and date of birth, will give us an indication of eligibility. This is then noted in our student management system, Arbor, and forms part of our school census or sent, in the case of EYPP, in a separate spreadsheet to Southwark's Early Years funding department.

We are grateful to all our parents for their willingness to provide us with their details in order that eligibility can be established so that the school is in receipt of the correct funding. The collection of this information is referenced in the school's GDPR Privacy Notice to Parents and Pupils. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates. We have a working party, consisting of teaching staff, non-teaching staff, the Senior Leadership Team, church governors and parent governors, who meet regularly to ensure our use of the Pupil Premium is as effective and relevant as possible.

Primary schools are given a Pupil Premium for:

- Children in Reception to Year 6 who are, or have ever been, entitled to free school meals based on their family income.
- Children in care.
- Children previously in care who have been adopted, or who have a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.
- Children recorded as being from service families.

Nursery schools are given an Early Years Pupil Premium for children where the parent or carer is in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money. There is no obligation for school to consult parents about how the money is used however they must publish details online which show how much money was allocated and that it was spent appropriately. This is measured through Ofsted inspections and annual performance tables showing the progress made by children who are eligible for pupil premium. St James' PP details are on this website under About Us\Purpose and Use of Pupil Premium.

Children qualify for pupil premium if the family are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Universal credit. Providing amount is less than stipulated
- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income less than current published information

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called Universal Credit.

All pupils who were eligible for free school meals up to April 2018 will continue to receive free school meals during this period. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants who no longer meet the eligibility criteria will still qualify for PP until the end of their current stage of education (i.e. primary or secondary).

Children who are or have been in care, and children who have a parent who is or was in the armed forces, are also entitled to pupil premium.