

PUPIL PREMIUM

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) and Pupil Premium Plus are government grants providing additional funding to schools for students on a per pupil basis in the following categories:

- those pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any time in the last six years (£935)
- have been in care for more than six months (£1900)
- have parents/carers in the armed services, who face particular challenges (£300)

How the Pupil Premium is spent is monitored closely with all schools accountable for the impact of the money spent. At St Benet Biscop Academy we pride ourselves on utilising the Pupil Premium to support our students with a specific focus on Numeracy and Literacy Intervention, Engagement, and Attendance, maximising the life opportunities for all students.

Why is there a pupil premium?

Research has shown that students who have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in their school career have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible. In 2009-10 GCSE statistics showed that around a third of students who have been on Free School Meals in the previous six years achieved five or more A* - C grades, compared to more than two thirds of their fellow students.

Is there an issue with eligible pupils not applying for FSM?

The department of Education has suggested that at least 14% of students eligible for FSM are not claiming them. It is very important that parents let us know if they are in receipt of any of the following types of benefits, as we will not be automatically informed by the local government:

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (ie they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

You can apply either by:

- An online application at:
https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals
- over the telephone on FSM 01670 623592
- completing a paper application form which is available from any school or FSM Office
Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth NE61 2EF