



**TRAFFORD
COUNCIL**

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Dear Parents and Carers of Trafford Secondary School Pupils

Pupil Premium Funding for children

Did you know that your child's school is entitled to special funding called Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium was introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with and support pupils. It is for children who;

- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years.
- Have been 'Looked After' by the Local Authority (children in care) continuously for more than six months,
- Are children of service personnel.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

The DfE define eligibility as those pupils for whom a Free School Meals (FSM) claim has been made in the past six years and where the claim has also been approved by the local authority.

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:
Income support or Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Child Tax Credit but NOT Working Tax Credit, with household income under £16,190.

Guarantee Element of Pension Credit

Universal Credit (please note not all elements of UC qualify for Free School Meals)
Working Tax Credit 'run on'.

The DfE believes:

"The Pupil Premium for disadvantaged pupils will provide additional funding specifically linked to disadvantaged pupils, with the primary objective of boosting their attainment... We will expect schools to account to parents for how it is used."

Schools are free to spend the pupil premium as they see fit. However the DfE are clear that schools will be held accountable for how this additional funding to support pupils from low-income families is used.

“It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per Free School Meals (FSM) pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.” Source DfE website.

National research shows that children 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.

Early Years Pupil Premium

From April 2015 nurseries, schools, child-minders and other childcare providers have been able to claim Early Years Pupil Premium. This is for three and four year old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or who were formally in local authority care (Looked After) and have been adopted or those who are subject to a special guardianship or child arrangements order.

National data shows that between three to five per cent of school children could be missing out on this additional funding. Current government estimates suggest that between around 200,000 to 350,000 children in England are eligible but their families do not claim.

Key Messages for Parents and Carers:

- Pupil Premium money goes directly to schools (not the local authority) and does not cost the LA anything. This money can make a significant difference to outcomes for young people.
- Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals - you should apply even if you do not intend to take the meals as this will enable the school to obtain funding to benefit your child and others in the school.
- Pupil Premium funding still needs to be claimed even if your child is receiving the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 classes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Share your National Insurance details with your child's school if/when requested. This can be used by the school to check whether your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium funding. There is a simple system which the schools can access once they have your National Insurance details. Schools must have written permission from you to use this information.

Trafford Council fully support schools in seeking National Insurance and Pupil Premium eligibility information. It is important to us as a local council that we encourage our schools to 'Close the Gap' in attainment. This will cost you and Trafford Council nothing but will bring in extra funding for the schools.

In a time of financial austerity, particularly when schools are struggling, this could make a huge difference to your child's school and enhance positive outcomes for children.

Please ask your school's Headteacher or Office for more information if required.

It is very important that you claim for Free School Meals if you are entitled.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



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