



Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

What is Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)?

Publicly-funded schools in England get extra funding from the government to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils.

Evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds:

- Generally face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school;
- Often do not perform as well as their peers.

The pupil premium grant is designed to allow schools to help disadvantaged pupils by improving their progress and the exam results they achieve.

Eligibility and funding

Schools get pupil premium funding based on the number of pupils they have in January each year from the following groups.

Free school meals

Park Hall Junior Academy receives £1,345 for every primary age pupil who claims free school meals, or who has claimed free school meals in the last 6 years.

Looked-after and previously looked-after children

Schools get £2,345 for every pupil who has left local authority care through adoption, a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

Service premium

The service premium is not part of the pupil premium as the rules to attract the service premium are different.

Schools get £310 for every pupil with a parent who:

- Is serving in HM Forces;
- Has retired on a pension from the Ministry of Defence.

This funding is to help with pastoral support.

Academically able pupils

The pupil premium is not based on ability.

Research shows that the most academically able pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are most at risk of under-performing. Schools should focus on these pupils just as much as pupils with low results.

It will be the decision of the school on how this funding is used. At Park Hall Junior Academy, we use the PPG across a variety of areas:

- To provide a range of additional support for our children through targeted interventions to ensure that all children reach at least age related expectations in all curriculum areas and higher attaining disadvantaged children make accelerated progress.
- Development for staff to improve the impact of teaching and learning for children.

Stepping forward together

- Wider non-academic approaches e.g. help with the cost of education trips or visits and extra-curricular activities. Using the pupil premium grant in this way helps to:
 - Increase pupils' confidence and resilience;
 - Encourage pupils to be more aspirational;
 - Benefit non-eligible pupils.

The outcomes for those children receiving Pupil Premium support has allowed them to either maintain expected progress or identify further areas of support, which will be continued in the coming academic year 2020/21.

Non-eligible pupils

Schools can spend their pupil premium on children who do not meet the eligibility criteria but need extra support.

Eligibility criteria

A child may be eligible for free school meals (FSM) if their parents receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit, provided the parents are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax credit.
- Universal Credit – for those applying on or after 1 April 2018, their household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits they get). See section below for protections in place for those affected by the introduction of this income threshold.

Children may also get FSM if they receive any of these benefits directly, instead of through a parent. This is explained on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

You can apply for free school meals here: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/free_school_meals

Pupil Premium is an important payment for schools and a good opportunity for eligible parents to get even more support for their children in schools.