

# The Pupil Premium at Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy A Guide for Parents

Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to support your child's education. At Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy we use this extra funding to provide pupils with fair and equal opportunities so that they achieve well in all areas of the school.

***As the family of Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy we aim to create excellence through providing opportunities for individuals to fulfil their educational, spiritual, emotional, social and moral potential, as we Learn to Love, Learn and Look forward with Christ.***

## How we use Pupil Premium Funds at Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy

Schools can choose how to spend their pupil premium money, as they are best placed to identify what would be of most benefit to the children who are eligible. Here at OLSB we are passionate about the educational and personal development of your child. Pupil Premium funds are used to help the pupils in a lot of ways including academic and non-academic areas. A financial plan lists the different ways in which funds are allocated to support education.

These include:

Funding to help academic progress.

This includes:

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for children within the classroom, employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes and help with pupil progress alongside the first-class teaching in school.
- Running catch-up sessions, for example for children who need extra help with Maths or English.
- Funding to help with the delivery of literacy and numeracy skills of Pupil Premium pupils in our school.
- Funding with Uniform, books and stationery, where needed, so that the individual needs of our pupils are met.
- Funding for school educational visits and retreats. This will make sure that pupils have access to opportunities to help their educational and personal development.
- Funding for music lessons and funding to provide extra tuition for able children. This also helps pupils to aspire to meet their true vocation, fulfil their potential and to use their God-given gifts and talents.
- Funding of enrichment opportunities for Pupil Premium pupils. This includes sporting and theatrical events, art experiences and musical opportunities.
- Funding of training and support for teachers so that they can provide outstanding teaching and learning for your child.
- Paying for additional help such as speech and language therapy, (Mable Therapy) Young Minds Counselling or support from Educational Psychology to meet a child's specific needs.

- Funding English support for children who speak another language at home. Investing in resources that boost children's learning, such as, Rapid Phonics, Rapid reading sets, Bug Club and Power Maths resources, laptops or tablets.
- Funding for Attendance monitoring; as attendance is strongly linked with academic progress.

*Please note that Pupil Premium Funding is best used on providing best quality teaching and learning. This may also benefit other groups of pupils. (Pupil Premium Myths EEF Guidance, 2019).*

Often, all of the children in a class will reap some benefit from how the school spends its pupil premium: for example, if the money is used to fund an additional teaching assistant who works across the whole class, rather than providing one-to-one support. But research shows that the fund does help to narrow gaps between pupil premium children and their peers, particularly in English and maths.

If your child gets the Pupil Premium you can find our financial plan for the year ahead (2023-2024) is available on the school website with an evaluation of the financial plan from 2022-2023. Should you have any further questions or wish to discuss the use of the Pupil Premium funding with the school's pupil premium lead (Mrs Sarah Clowes) then please contact the school office.

### **Who can get the Pupil Premium Funds?**

The following Pupils can get the pupil premium:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives **£1,455** for each of these children.
- Children who *are or have* been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of **£2,530**.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. They are awarded **£335**.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children in KS2 whose families have a net income of £7400 or under, effective from 1 April 2018. If your child was previously entitled to free school meals but is no longer, they will still receive pupil premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a pupil who has ever had free school meals in the past six years).

### **Can you influence how the pupil premium is used?**

There is no obligation for your school to consult you about how they use the money they claim for your child, although some schools may involve parents. However, schools do have to show that they are using their pupil premium fund appropriately. This is measured through Ofsted inspections and annual performance tables showing the progress made by children who are eligible for pupil premium. In addition, they have to publish details online, including how much money they have been allocated, how they intend to spend it, how they spent their previous year's allocation and how it made a difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. All of this information can be found on the school website.



## Can your Child get the Pupil Premium?

Your child might be able to get Pupil Premium including free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of 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 - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having 'no recourse to public funds'), your child may still be eligible for free school meals. Ask their school whether they're eligible.

**From 1st April 2018, the Department for Education made amendments to the eligibility criteria for free school meals to reflect the roll out of Universal Credit full service.**

**From this date onwards your child will only be eligible for free schools meals under Universal Credit if you and your partner have net earned income of less than £7,400 per year (assessed from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).**

**The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to be completed by March 2025.**

**However in the meantime, transitional protections will be implemented for those children who might otherwise lose free school meals following the update to the eligibility criteria.**

If you wish to register your child as eligible, please contact Mrs Kerry Howard in the school office.

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for universal **free school meals**, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium funding.

If your child qualifies for Pupil Premium and free school meals, it's important that you tell their school – even if they take a packed lunch – as this enables them to claim pupil premium. A link to the pupil premium letter is also on the website.



Mrs Sarah Clowes Principal

Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy, Abbey Lane, Abbey Hulton, Stoke- on- Trent. ST2 8AU  
Telephone: 01782 234646 E-mail: [office@olsbprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@olsbprimary.org.uk)

