



Pupil Premium for families with ‘no recourse to public funds’ during the Covid-19 crisis

What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium is a sum of money given to a school by the Government which they can use in a number of ways to improve the educational attainment of pupils who are disadvantaged. Primary schools receive £1,345 a year for each eligible pupil and secondary schools receive £955 a year. Schools can claim pupil premium for all children who are in receipt of Free School Meals.

Pupil Premium eligibility 2021-22

On 6th April 2020 eligibility for free school meals support was extended to some families with ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF) for a temporary period as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Thanks to a recent judicial challenge the pupil premium eligibility for the academic year 2021-22 is also being extended to pupils eligible for free school meals under this temporary extension.

For a child to be eligible for free school meals, and by extension the Pupil Premium, under this temporary extension the family needs to earn less than £31,500 yearly if they are living within London, or £28,200 for those outside of London **and** meet one of the following categories:

- Children whose parents/carers are non-EEA nationals who are the primary carer of a British citizen child.
- Children from families who have been granted leave to remain with NRPF on the basis of family or private life grounds.
- Children whose families have NRPF and receive support from a local authority under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (for example, from social services or the NRPF team).

For more information about how to access free school meals under this new extension see our FSM factsheet on our website¹

¹ <https://www.project17.org.uk/resources/guide-to-accessing-support/free-school-meals-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

My child is eligible for Free School Meals under the new extension, how does the school get Pupil Premium for my child?

Eligible schools will need to make a claim for additional pupil premium funding for any pupils who were eligible for free school meals under the temporary NRPF extension at any time between April 2020 and October 2020. For schools with pupils who are now eligible for the 2021-2022 because of this concession, the government decided to adopt an alternative applications process on the basis that this is more practical than asking schools to amend the Autumn 2020 school census that will have already been submitted. The deadline for this was 30th June 2021 but Schools and Local Authorities can contact the DfE by using the [ESFA enquiry form](#) if they would like their out of time claim to be considered on an exceptional basis.

So far, the government has only committed to extending the Pupil Premium grant for the 2021-2022 financial year.