

Pupil Premium

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium funding was introduced in 2011 and was put in place to improve the attainment (academic outcome) of children from low income families. It is an annual amount of money given to the school by the government (currently £1,320 per Pupil Premium child). The children also receive free school meals.

How must the school spend the money?

Since its introduction in 2011, studies have shown that schools were using the funding in different ways with different outcomes. A recent document produced by the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) has now been issued with specific recommendations on how this money should be spent. Teachers and Governors have therefore now put in place a longer-term strategy based on these recommendations. This will be reviewed regularly and published on the school website.

It had previously been assumed by some schools that the per-pupil grant should be spent specifically on that child and this would improve their learning outcome. However, research showed that this was not the case and those schools that looked at the wider picture came out with the best results.

Our guidance is now that the Pupil Premium spending should influence the whole school and not solely the specific child.

“Pupil Premium should be at the heart of the whole school effort and it should be used to make maximum impact within the school. The needs of ALL pupils should be addressed. It does not mean that the £1,320 should be spent exclusively on each pupil.”

½ of the allocated money should be spent on Teaching and the Continual Personal Development of the teachers.

¼ should be spent on targeted academic support of the Pupil Premium child.

¼ should be spent on wider strategies including behaviour and attendance.

At TRJS our strategy is to:

- Continually improve teaching as a whole through training.
- Share good practice throughout the school with lesson observations, learning walks etc.
- Keep smaller class sizes for Reading, Writing and Maths (for as long as possible)
- Continue with specifically targeted intervention and small group activities based on individual needs.
- Develop peer learning strategies.
- Set high expectations.
- Continue with Pupil Premium “passports” (these itemise specific interventions and record their effectiveness. They allow us to intervene quickly and tailor the child’s program accordingly).
- Be open-minded to new ideas.
- Provide financial aid with school trips, TRJS after school clubs, Early Birds and Night Owls.
- Engage with families.

(It may be worth noting that our spending strategy may differ from other schools.)

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium funding if you receive:

- 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)

If you feel your child may be eligible for this funding and Free School Meals, or if you have any questions on Pupil Premium, please see Mrs Sharpe.