

Dear Parents/Carers,

There are many circumstances that can mean that your child's school is entitled to receive additional funding for their education. The education sector is under much financial strain.

For that reason, we are keen to ensure that we have explored every funding possibility. The Pupil Premium is additional school funding and it is paid directly to your child's school to improve the quality of their education. If you are on low income and in receipt of one of the benefits listed below, if you are a student completing a college or university course, or a member of the armed forces your child may be eligible to Pupil Premium and/or free school meals to help support their education.

**Your child's school may be entitled to pupil premium funding if you receive one of the following benefits:**

Children in Year 3 or above may get free school meals if you receive 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
- Child Tax Credit, as long as you're not getting Working Tax Credit, and your annual income is £16,190 or less
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying
- Universal Credit, if your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including benefits

### **Changes to free school meals eligibility from 1 June 2026**

From 1 June 2026, more children in households receiving Universal Credit may qualify for free school meals, even if the household earns more than £7,400 a year.

If your child was previously refused free school meals, you can apply again from 1 June 2026.

Applications open on 1 June 2026.

Children who qualify under the expanded eligibility will receive free school meals from 1 September 2026.

If you would have previously fallen into the listed entitled groups but are no longer, your child may still be entitled to pupil premium funding.

You may also be interested to know that if your circumstances change at a later date and you find you are no longer entitled to free school meals, your child's Pupil Premium funding allocated to the school will continue for 6 years after.

To see whether you are eligible for the pupil premium, please follow this link and complete your online application. <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/free-school-meals/>

We aim to offer the absolute best provision for every child attending Overdale Junior School and the funding we receive ensures that we are able to do this; please help us to ensure that this can continue.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Cross

Head of School