



Itchen Abbas Primary School

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School Census

Dear Parent/Carer

Could your child be eligible for extra support? Free School Meals (FSM) and School Funding

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, the school may receive additional funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

At Itchen Abbas Primary School, we currently receive approximately £1,550 for each eligible child. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer. Many more families now qualify under the updated rules — even if you have not been eligible before, it is worth applying.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Additional teaching support
- Resources to support learning in class
- Wellbeing and pastoral support for children

Why it's important to apply (even if your child doesn't take school meals):

- It can help the school access additional funding to support pupils
- It helps us provide targeted support, resources and opportunities
- It ensures we understand the needs of all families in our community
- It may help you access other support (e.g. holiday clubs or assistance schemes)

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

Some children who are eligible for free school meals may also attract additional government funding for the school through the Pupil Premium. Eligibility for Pupil Premium is determined separately from the new expanded Universal Credit free school meal entitlement.

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or 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
- Universal Credit – from September 2026 all households receiving Universal Credit are eligible for free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Your child might also be eligible if you're in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold. This is for children of:

- Zambrano and Chen carers (non-EEA nationals caring for a British citizen residing in the UK)
- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status
- Families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium. Even if your child already receives universal free meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, registering is still very important.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If your child is eligible for free school meals, it is still very important to register. Some children also generate additional funding for the school (called pupil premium), which we use to provide extra support. Even where additional funding is not attached, registering helps us understand and support families better.

How do I register?

To register, please:

Email the school office and advise Mrs Smith that you believe you may meet the criteria. Please include your date of birth (both parents) and National Insurance Number (both parents) so that checks can be made. Parents can also use the link below to start an application.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

Once registered, eligibility will normally be checked periodically by the local authority. The school will contact you if any further information is needed.

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year. If you have any questions or specific concerns, please email the school office. All applications are confidential and handled sensitively by the school and local authority.

Best wishes



Mr Rob Bogan
Headteacher

