

Wadham School

A Church of England Community School Making opportunities to learn and achieve

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you about Pupil Premium. You may be aware of Pupil Premium from the national press surrounding it since the Coalition Government introduced it in 2012. You are receiving this letter because your child is identified as being entitled to this support.

What is Pupil Premium?

Students qualify as being eligible for Pupil Premium at Wadham if they are in Year 9 to 11 and satisfy at least one of the following:

- They have received Free School Meals at any point in the last 6 years
- They are in the care of the Local Authority
- They are a child adopted from the care of the Local Authority
- They are children of Service personnel

This means that the school receives additional funding for your child, in order to give them extra support if identified.

Does Pupil Premium status ever stop?

Once qualifying for Pupil Premium pupils retain this eligibility until they leave Year 11 or 6 years after Free School Meals Allocation has stopped being provided.

Why was Pupil Premium introduced?

Pupil Premium funding has been allocated to schools so that they can address the achievement gap between students who are eligible for Pupil Premium and those who are not. The average achievement of this group of students is typically lower than the remainder of the cohort and we strive to close this gap.

Where can I find out more?

The school is charged with allocating this money to maximise student achievement. We have some information on support strategies and how this money is spent on the school website.

What does this mean for my child?

Whilst your child is at school (up to Year 11) there will be educational opportunities that will be available for your child, and other students (whether they are eligible for Pupil Premium or not). Some of these may incur a cost. We aim to keep these costs as affordable as possible but where a charge is necessary we can offer a payment plan.

For example: If a curriculum (in school time) trip costs £30 for a day to a theatre or gallery, and it is difficult for some parents to find that lump sum, we can divide the payments into 3 over the course of 3 months.





Pupil Premium funding can now help bridge the gap between what payments are made and the costs of running the trip or activity. There are some occasions where a trip or activity relies entirely on the payments. If these are not sufficient then occasionally a trip or activity cannot go ahead. If you have difficulty affording the cost of trips or other opportunities that your child has access to, please contact the school Finance Office to discuss how we may be able to help with this.

Will children know who is on Pupil Premium?

Please be assured that we make every effort to treat this matter confidentially. We do not discuss Pupil Premium with students and it is highly unlikely that students will know that they are eligible for Pupil Premium or not unless parents decide to share this information with their child. We will however be introducing ourselves to the students so we can get to know them and ensure they have all the support they need to achieve their best here at Wadham.

What can Pupil Premium be used for?

At Wadham we may use Pupil Premium for the following although this list is not exhaustive:

- To subsidise educational resources that your child needs for school
- To subsidise curriculum trips or activities
- Extra-curricular trips may be considered in exceptional circumstances
- To provide extra tuition in school time
- To provide revision materials to older students
- Other expenses judged by the school to maximise student achievement
- Reduced Class sizes
- Homework clubs etc.

Pupil Premium is <u>not</u> typically used for:

- Buying school uniform
- Providing transport to and from school
- Providing school lunches

Financial support for transport and free school meals is available from Somerset County Council, advice is available on this website:

http://www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Can I discuss this with someone?

We do not want to discriminate against children or families and prevent them from participating fully in the life of the school as a result of financial hardship. If you would like to discuss Pupil Premium further please do not hesitate to contact us either by email on kstubbins@wadhamschool.co.uk or via the school office 01460 270123.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Stubbins Inclusion Manager