

Information for Parents/Carers whose children are starting school

My child is starting school on a part-time basis, may I claim a funded hours until they are in school full-time?

No. Once your child has started in Reception year at a school, you are no longer entitled to access early years funding for their childcare, no matter how many hours are being taken there. If, due to your family's circumstances, your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, this funding will also go to the school.

Now that my child is starting school, do I need to apply for Free School Meals (FSM)?

All children starting reception are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal. However, although your child will receive a school meal under the Universal Free School Meal entitlement, in order to obtain the Pupil Premium for your child and their school, you need to complete a Free School Meals (FSM) form which collects the information needed to make a check for eligibility. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

My child's childcare provider was in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium, do I need to apply for Pupil Premium?

If we already hold your details, and your child was eligible for economic reasons, we will be able to make that check for you using a secure Electronic Checking System (ECS). You will be notified of the outcome. If your child is entitled, they will continue to benefit from the additional government funding.

My child wasn't in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium, do I need to apply for Pupil Premium?

If you provided your surname, date of birth and NI number or NASS number previously, you do not need to re-apply for Pupil Premium as we hold your details and will advise you if your child becomes eligible.

If you have not previously provided your details to your childcare provider, then you will need to apply by completing a Free School Meals (FSM) form. Even if you don't think you would qualify at this point, once you have completed the form, we will be able to continue to check economic eligibility throughout your child's school years using the ECS. You will be notified if you become eligible. The form may be given to you by your school or you can access it online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

What is the criteria for Pupil Premium?

The economic criteria are:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ◆ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ◆ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ◆ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ◆ Child Tax Credit (unless you're also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and earn no more than £16,190)
- ◆ Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop receiving Working Tax Credit)
- ◆ Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400)

If your child meets one of the criteria below, please discuss with your school:

- ◆ been in local-authority care for 1 day or more in England or Wales
- ◆ been adopted from care in England or Wales
- ◆ left care under a special guardianship order or residence order in England or Wales

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the Education Welfare Benefits team by email ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or on 01223 703200

Or look at the website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals