



**Bromley  
Brighter Beginnings**

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS & PUPIL PREMIUM: INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES AND REFERRERS**

### **What is Pupil Premium?**

Pupil Premium is a scheme that aims to support disadvantaged pupils by providing government funding to schools and local authorities. The funding is used to provide free school meals, trips and educational support, and towards holiday activity and food clubs. Some schools also use the funding to help families in financial need with school uniform and other costs.

Families can access Pupil Premium funding by applying for free school meals, which can often act as a 'gateway' for the above support.

### **How do I know if I am eligible for free school meals?**

Families receiving certain benefits, including Universal Credit and Child Tax Credits (and some with No Recourse to Public Funds) are eligible for free school meals – you can find more information online [here](#).

### **What should I do if I am eligible for Pupil Premium but have not registered for it?**

If you are eligible for free school meals, it is important that you actually register for them.

This is especially important for families with children in Infants (Reception to year 2), as school meals are automatically provided free for all children in those years, which means that you wouldn't necessarily think about needing to register at that stage. However, registering gives you eligibility for help with other things such as holiday activity and food clubs, and support with school uniform in some cases.

For Bromley, you can find information on the scheme [here](#) and register online for free school meals via [this form](#). (Please note that if your child attends Coopers School, Harris Academy Beckenham, Harris Girls' Academy Bromley, or La Fontaine Academy, you will need to apply direct to the school, as the council does not manage free school meal applications for these schools.)

If you are not able to go online to register, please ask your referrer for help, request a paper application form from the school, or contact your local Citizens' Advice.

**How does being registered for free school meals help with school uniform?**

Many schools put some of their Pupil Premium funding aside to support families in financial hardship with school uniform items if they are not able to afford to buy this themselves. You should contact the school in the first instance to ask about this (you will need to be registered for free school meals first to be eligible for this type of help – see above).

**How does this affect the referral process to BBB?**

Bromley Brighter Beginnings asks that all families explore this route first (with the help of your referrer if necessary) before applying to BBB for support, as the school may be able to help with the uniform required. This enables us to stretch our funds further and support other families in need. If the school is unable to help, or cannot provide all the items required, your referrer should submit a uniform referral to us in the usual way (by completing [this online form](#)), which we will then process and follow up with the family.

*If you have any questions, please contact [info@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk](mailto:info@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk).*