**Pupil Premium**

Please see below for a list of questions asked at the ‘Pupil Premium’ session of the Governors for Schools Conference 2022, on Wednesday, 28th September from 2pm–3pm.

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| ***Why does the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) not work more at the secondary school level?*** | Becky comments: The EEF endeavours to support the education of disadvantaged children and young people from 2-19 years old. We synthesise evidence across the full age range. As such, our evidence reviews and guidance reports for teachers offer a spread across early years, primary, secondary, and (to a lesser extent) post-16; and we continue to commission evidence reviews in all areas. Similarly, our direct work with schools spans the age range: our Research School Network includes nursery, primary, and secondary schools across England, who offer training for teachers across the full age range.However, the majority of our programmatic research to date has focused on school-age children. Expanding beyond the 5-16 age range requires focus, and we are expanding selectively and slowly to ensure we retain the quality we hope we are known for.To date, the EEF has commissioned trials from the early years through to post-16. Initially, a disproportionately high proportion of our trials were in Key Stage 2, which is something we have been addressing over the last three years by increasing research commissioning in both secondary and the younger age groups. Sadly, most of the trials commissioned over this period were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, so were unable to produce robust impact data. For this reason, our website still has fewer secondary-based trial results than we would prefer. |
| ***Can you please provide examples of how Governors might identify families eligible for free school meals who are not claiming them?*** | Georgina comments: **Communicate clearly and regularly about free school meals**: Use all the communication methods available at your school, including emails, texts, and newsletters to regularly remind families about free school meals. Make sure letters about dinner money debts also include details on how to check free school meal eligibility, as it is useful for families who are finding it difficult to pay for lunches to check if they are missing out on a free school meal entitlement. Promote the wider benefits of free school meal registration by informing parents about the initial school funds received through Pupil Premium for each eligible child. **Support with the application process:** Free school meal registration is not currently automatic, meaning families and schools need to apply even if they are eligible if they want to receive support. Some schools have offered support to families with filling in application forms, including both online and paper-based options. Other schools ask all parents to fill in free school meal application forms when their children start school as standard or if there are any in-year transfers. This is particularly helpful for ensuring younger primary students are identified and that the school receives Pupil Premium when all children are receiving a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM). Some schools also ask parents to provide their National Insurance number when their child first enrols, which can be securely stored and used to check eligibility at any time if family circumstances change. Other schools have also offered incentives for families who fill in free school meal forms, regardless of eligibility such as a free school jumper, book bag or P.E. kit. This is a great way not only of making sure that everyone eligible is identified, but of supporting families with the costs of starting school. More ideas are available here: [Fixing Lunch: The case for expanding free school meals | CPAG](https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/report/fixing-lunch-case-expanding-free-school-meals), [The Cost of Missing Lunchtime: A briefing on free school meals in the North East | CPAG](https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/briefing/cost-missing-lunchtime-briefing-free-school-meals-north-east)**Ensure that practices at lunchtime aren’t stigmatising:** Ensure that pupils in receipt of free school meals are not identifiable to their peers and that families are aware attention will not be drawn to those taking a free school meal. Consider all aspects of the lunchtime experience to ensure payment processes and practices don’t unintentionally draw attention to those on free school meals, including when pupils are on trips. More information on food provision in school is available here: [The Cost of the School Day in England: Pupils' Perspectives | CPAG](https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/briefing/cost-school-day-england-pupils-perspectives) |