

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

The introduction of 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' in September 2014 has meant that all children attending school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals, regardless of income or eligibility for benefits. Receiving free school meals means you can save up to £400 a year and ensure your child is eating a healthy, balanced meal every day. However, for us as a school, its introduction has meant that we could lose out on valuable funding that can help secure better opportunities for your child. Even if you take advantage of "Universal Infant Free School Meals", it helps us greatly if you register for free school meals if you are entitled to them.

How registering for Free School Meals can benefit your child's education

Each year the school benefits from additional funding for all students who are registered for free school meals or who have been registered in the past six years. This funding is given to schools to raise the attainment of children and enables us to provide many additional support mechanisms such as intervention and booster classes along with financial support for educational visits and activities. This is called Pupil Premium funding.

Is my child eligible for Pupil Premium?

In order for the school to receive the Pupil Premium funding a Parent/Carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- 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 are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

How do you register?

The quickest and easiest way to apply for Free School Meals and ensure the school receives Pupil Premium funding for your child is to apply online using the following link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

Your eligibility will be checked online by the Local Authority and your application processed straight away. If your application is successful the school will be notified by email immediately and your child can start receiving their free school meal (should you wish) within 24 hours.