

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium **Primary**

Our school receives funding from the Government to cover the costs of providing education. This includes all school running costs, such as employing teachers and support staff, books and equipment, school building expenses and free school meals.

The school also receives additional funding known as pupil premium for pupils whose families receive certain benefits. All KS1 children (Reception, year 1 and year 2) currently receive a free meal via the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme so you may think why bother completing the form but we can only claim the pupil premium if we are aware of parents receiving one of the eligible benefits. Even if your child is on a packed lunch the school will still be able to claim the premium if you are eligible.

It is in **all** our interests that we bring in as much money as we can to support our school and ensure all of our children get the best possible education. To help your child and your school, we can do a very quick eligibility check for this additional funding via Durham County Council.

In order to do this we require some simple information relating to the parent/guardian. Please inform the school if you are/have been employed by H.M.R.C. as this may have an effect on the result.

Full name

Date of birth

National Insurance number or Asylum Seekers Reference number

You do not need to provide supporting paperwork unless the school request this.

For the whole of the time your child is in our school this is the only information we will need to check your eligibility (**unless your surname changes**). We are therefore asking all parents, no matter what your current circumstances are to complete, sign and return the attached form.

Pupils protected from losing free school meals

An additional benefit to applying for FSMs is should you become entitled, protection rules are currently in place following the roll out of Universal Credit. The roll out of Universal Credit out is due to end shortly so it is important to complete paperwork now as it may cause you to miss out on future free home to school transport or Household Support Vouchers.

The following pupils will be protected against losing their free school meals:

- from 1 April 2018, all existing free school meals claimants will continue to receive free school meals whilst Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if their earnings rise above the new threshold during that time
- in addition, any child gaining eligibility for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing free school meals during the Universal Credit rollout period
- once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because they are earning above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (ie primary or secondary)

Please be rest assured that the information you provide is confidential and will be treat with the strictest confidence and safe keeping.

Many thanks for your help.

Kind regards

Head Teacher

School Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Universal Credit **with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7,400** as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods
- Income Support
- Income - based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you **are not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.