

Dear Parents and Carers

***Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money to help support your child?
Register now to make sure we don't miss out***

You may be aware that the Government is currently providing additional money to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium'. One of the criteria used to calculate this additional money is the number of pupils at a school who are eligible for Free School Meals. In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend this school fail to claim Free School Meals, even though they are entitled to them.

For every child registered the school receives an additional £1,300 Primary / £935 Secondary from April 2014 to March 2015.

With this money we could purchase additional resources, equipment and also staffing to help provide additional support for children who attend this school.

Applying for Free School Meals is easy and confidential; pupils are not aware of who receives them. It will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

If you qualify for Free School Meals but don't wish your child to receive them, they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets the additional money.

In order to claim Free School Meals a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income-Related Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and an annual income of less than £16,190 (but not if you are in work and receiving Working Tax Credit)
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you live in Knowsley and the Local Authority is aware that your child is eligible to receive Free School Meals, you will automatically be registered, without you having to fill in a separate form. However, if you think that you are eligible to apply for Free School Meals for your child, or if you are not

sure, you can contact the Council's Benefits Service on 0151 443 4042 to make sure. A member of the Benefits Team will be happy to advise you.

If you don't live in Knowsley, you will have to register for Free School Meals with your own Local Authority. Each Council operates a different system for dealing with Free School Meal applications so the best way to find out how to claim from another Council is to either check their website or to call the following numbers:

St. Helens – 01744 675216

Liverpool – 0151 233 3009

I would encourage you to do this as if you don't, and your child is entitled to Free School Meals, the school will be missing out on additional funding that could help to support your child's education.

Furthermore, you may have heard about the Government's plans to provide free schools meals for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children from September 2014. Because of this, you might think that you don't need to register your eligibility for Free School Meals for your child, where you would have received these because of the benefits that you receive. However, if the school is to receive the extra Pupil Premium Funding for children who are eligible we still need you to register your entitlement.