



Silverstone CE Primary
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Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over recent years the Government has put money into the education system specifically to support families who have extra needs. In order for the school to receive any of this money the Government take the numbers of pupils eligible for 'free school meals' and allocate funds based on this figure.

The terminology used by Government and Local Authorities can sometimes become confusing. There are three main terms used in schools:

- ✓ Universal Infant Free School Meals
- ✓ Free School Meals
- ✓ Pupil Premium

Universal Infant Free School Meals

All child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal in school under this scheme. School do not receive any additional funding to support families.

Free School Meals

Any child from Reception to Year 6 is eligible for 'Free School Meal' if parents meet the criteria set out on our website. Unfortunately, following the introduction of the Universal Infant Free School Meals, there are some families who have not registered for 'Free School Meals' because they were unaware of the additional benefits this would bring for their child and the school. This means that as a school we are disadvantaged and do not receive all the money due to us. If all eligible families registered for Free School Meals' it would benefit the whole school and the individual families in the ways listed below.

Pupil Premium

All children who are entitle to a 'Free School Meal' are automatically placed into the Pupil Premium category. In addition children remain in the Pupil Premium category for six years, even if the eligibility for free school meals stops.

Under Pupil Premium, schools can access additional funding per child that is used to pay for additional Teaching Assistants in school, additional resources for individual children and financial support for families towards cost of school trips and uniform, etc.

Benefits for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

1. Access to free dinners for each child at school from the eligible family
2. A voucher equivalent to £150 per pupil per year, which can be spent on any service that the school provides; e.g. trips, day visits, clubs, music tuition, school uniform
3. The school will receive additional money from the Department for Education to assist all pupils, and particularly those on the 'free school meal register', to make progress
4. The school also receives an additional grant, called the deprivation grant, based upon the percentage of pupils on the 'free school meal register'
5. All pupils have opportunities to be supported, extended and have access to a wider range of activities.

Please think carefully about whether you may be eligible to register for 'free school meals' even if your child already has a free lunch as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, or does not wish to have a lunch provided by school.

Registration makes a real difference to the school and benefits all pupils. Eligibility for 'free school meals' remains confidential and at no time will your child be made to feel different.

Checking eligibility is simple and just requires some basic information such as your National Insurance Number and date of birth. It can be done online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals .

If you require assistance with this, please ask at the school office or speak with myself; we will be happy to help.

James Bloomfield
Headteacher