

Universal Infant Free School Meals

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Since September 2014 the new nationwide scheme 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' has been available. This means that all children attending school in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of income or eligibility for benefits. By receiving free school meals you can save up to £400 a year and ensure your child is eating a healthy, balanced meal every day.

How Universal Infant Free School Meals will affect Pupil Premium

In the 2014/15 financial year, schools will receive £1,300 for every primary-aged pupil registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years. We'd like to remind you that if you are what the government terms 'on a low income' your child qualifies for free school meals. Children don't have to take our meals if they don't want to but, if they are on our Free School Meals register, then they qualify for all sorts of other financial benefits throughout the year. When a pupil is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money for that pupil which has to be spent only on the education of that pupil. This extra money is called the Pupil Premium and its purpose is to ensure that children from low income families are not at a financial disadvantage during their education as a result of home circumstances.

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-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but no Working Tax Credit is being received by the claimant or his/her partner and the combined annual income as assessed by HMIR on a TC602 form is not above £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit.
- Asylum Seeker under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Other Information

For children in Year 3 to Year 6, the Parent/Carer will continue to apply for free school meals based upon the above eligibility criteria. To apply online please go to:

www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals.

If you have any questions, or are unsure if your child qualifies for Pupil Premium please contact the school office.