



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

part of Bosco Catholic Education Trust



*Striving for Excellence in all that we do
as we learn to live like Jesus*

24th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Would you like money towards school clubs, help with uniform, support for trips, extra learning resources – and opportunities for one-to-one and small group teaching for your child when it's needed?

You may be aware that the government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of the 'Pupil Premium'. One of the criteria used to calculate this additional funding is the number of pupils at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSMs). In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend St Mary's fail to claim FSMs, even though they are entitled to them.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs, I am writing to all parents and carers to ask them, if they believe that they may be entitled to claim FSMs for their children and do not already do so, to make a claim.

As I am sure you will agree, the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding.

All children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals but this does not mean we receive the Pupil Premium funding for these children. Even if your children are in these year groups, if you are entitled to Free School Meals then please apply.

On 4th October 2018 (our school census day) pupil numbers are counted and our budget is calculated. A great deal of funding that comes from the Government for schools is based on the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals at this date. Please register before this date to ensure your child and other children in the school do not miss out.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are entitled to receive one of the following*

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (**IBJSA**)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (**IR ESA**)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're 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 – applications after the 1st April 2018 - your household income must be less than £7400 per year

*Please be assured that no one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

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How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify. Pupil Premium funding is not just if you are unemployed. West Sussex County Council can undertake an online check for you in complete confidence - you will need to contact the number or email address below and tell them your National Insurance Number or your National Asylum Seeker Number (NASS), your date of birth and your surname (as it appears on your benefit letter).
2. Registering is really quick and easy – you only need to provide your name, date of birth, national insurance number and details of your child. If you think you qualify please contact the Free School Meals Team at West Sussex Council: telephone 0330 222 5555. You can also apply online at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/free-school-meals-online-application/?formcheck=checked> or request a form from the school office staff. Your enquiry will be dealt with sensitively and in strict confidence.

Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care

Since April 2014, schools in England have been able to receive pupil premium funding of £1.900 for children adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), a Residency Order (RO) or a Child Arrangement Order (CAO). Children who receive this funding will be entitled to all the benefits mentioned above.

In order to claim the next allocation of pupil premium funding for adopted children or those who are the subject of a SGO, RO or CAO, parents or guardians will need to come and speak to myself or Mrs Gemma Irvine (Head Teacher) and provide supporting evidence – for example, the Adoption (Court) Order – by the start of next week (1st October 2018). Schools are under a duty to treat this information with the strictest of confidence.

This is clearly a significant amount of money for the school and this would be used to the benefit and support of your child and the school. I appreciate that you may have further questions and many of the answers can be found on <https://www.adoptionuk.org/pupil-premium>.

Please come in and talk to me if you are not sure!

Yours sincerely

Carl Gendre
Assistant Head Teacher