

## **PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING**

### **Claiming for Free School Meals**

All Reception and KS1 children are currently entitled to universal infant free school meals. All children throughout the whole school, from Reception to Year 6, may also qualify for free school meals under the Pupil Premium Funding.

If you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals, please read the following information so that you can begin to start the claim process.

### **Why should I claim for Free School Meals?**

It is really important, that if you feel you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals, that you do so, even if you are already receiving universal infant free school meals through the alternative government scheme.

This is because there is additional government funding awarded to the school, called the Pupil Premium, which is awarded to schools according to the number of children in receipt of Free School Meals.

This means that claiming for Free School Meals could also help your child receive other benefits at school. If eligible, St John the Baptist School offers your child a free school sweatshirt, polo shirt, free milk and additional help in school

You can even claim and then not take the school hot dinner if your child does not like it; or, your child can just have the school dinners on the days they wish to.

### **What are the eligibility criteria to claim for Free School Meals?**

From 1 April 2018, free school meals in all West Sussex maintained and free schools and academies are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- **Universal Credit** (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (provided you're not also entitled to **Working Tax Credit** and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- **Working Tax Credit** run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

A number of pupils will also be protected against losing their current free school meals. You can find more information on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please click on the link below to find out more:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>