



September 2022

PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' or you think they may be eligible, please see Central Bedfordshire Council's website where there is information on eligibility criteria and information on how to apply:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals/3

Children that are eligible for Free School Meals receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. This additional money is used to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is Pupil Premium funding?

Pupil Premium funding is allocated from central government and given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It is provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At Thomas Whitehead CE Academy we get an additional £1,345 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of the education we offer.

As an example, in the past we have used Pupil Premium funding for :

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- Contributions towards educational visits
- School uniform

Is your child eligible for free school meals?

Your child **may** be eligible if you are in receipt of:

- 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 or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled Universal Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.00)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)



Universal Infant Free School Meals

Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meal thanks to additional government funding (UFISM). UFISM **does not** qualify a child for Pupil Premium, so if your child is in any of these year groups, please apply for Free School Meals if you think you qualify.

Does my child have to eat Free School Meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals do not have to eat them. If your child is eligible but you want your child to have a packed lunch, you should still register, as the school will still receive the funding, which can support your child in other ways.

More information

For more information on Pupil Premium please visit the school website which contains details on how the funding has been sent in the previous academic year and how it has been allocated for this year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please feel free to contact the school office who will be pleased to help or will direct you to someone who can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your sincerely

Mrs N Chiswell.
Head Teacher