

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

Which pupils qualify for free school meals?

Pupils in Years 7 - 13 may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal credit if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any other benefits)

What are the benefits of claiming free school meals?

School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and they can also save you time and money.

Claiming free school meals also helps the school. We get extra funding, known as the 'pupil premium', for every eligible pupil who is registered.

What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium grant is funding provided to schools to help all pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. Pupils may be eligible if they:

- Are in Years 7 – 11
- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point since May 2013
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How is the pupil premium funding used?

The pupil premium is not used to pay for school meals. We use the funding to improve the attainment of pupils who are eligible. You will find more information about how we use our pupil premium funding on our website.

How can I ensure the school gets the funding?

The more eligible pupils that are registered for free school meals, the more funding the school receives.

Registering does not mean your child has to take up free school meals if they don't want to. You should still register for free school meals even if you would rather your child had a different meal, such as a packed lunch

How to register for free school meals:

Make a claim via <http://www.bexley.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> if you think are eligible.

The school will be notified if your application is successful and your son's cashless catering account will then be topped up automatically with £2.50 every day. Please note that students cannot 'save up' their allowance and that, once the allowance is reached, any further purchases must be funded by parental 'top up'.

Please speak to a member of the Reception team in the first instance should you have any queries (other than eligibility) regarding free school meals or the pupil premium.