

**Free School Meals and Pupil Premium**

**Why Apply?**

The school can access extra funding, called Pupil Premium, for children who are entitled to free school meals. If your KS2 child is eligible for free school meals and you register them for this, we’ll receive Pupil Premium. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. For KS1 children already receiving universal infant free school meals, **if you meet the eligibility criteria below**, please let us know, as we can still get this additional funding.

**What is pupil premium funding?**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It’s provided for pupils who:

* Are eligible 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

This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we’ve previously used pupil premium funding for:

* Educational provision/resources
* Academic interventions
* Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
* Help with school trips, music lessons or uniform purchases

**Is my child eligible for free school meals?**

Your child might be eligible if you access:

* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
* 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
* Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

**Universal infant free school meals**

Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). You shouldn’t confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we’ll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

**Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don’t have to eat them. If you’re eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches, you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

**How do I register?**

You only need to register once at the school.

*For children in Key Stage 2*

To register, please visit the Essex County Council website or type the link below into your browser.

https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support/Pages/Free-school-meals.aspx

A direct link can also be found on our school website.

If you are unable to access the internet at home, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help with your application.

*For children in Key Stage 1*

Please contact the school office directly.

**More information**

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please email the school office: admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk; or contact Mrs Benn or Mrs Mitchell.