

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Our Ref:** OM.SL.0363

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: Pupil Premium and Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

**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 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

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

- your annual income is less than £16,190; and
- you claim Child Tax Credit (**\*Not Including Working Tax Credit**) only; and

**\*Please note you will not qualify for free school meals if you receive any amount of Working Tax Credit. Before applying please check your latest Tax Credit Awards Notice if you are unsure.**

Your child may also qualify for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- **Universal Credit \*\* if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods (after tax and not including any benefits you get) Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.**

- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (including Child Tax Credit)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- support from the National Asylum Support Service.

\*\*You may be asked to provide supporting evidence if you receive Universal Credit, for example a copy of your Universal Credit Statement(s)

\*\*Universal Credit will be rolled out in Sandwell from November 2018. For further information on Universal Credit please read the following link '[Get ready for Universal Credit](#)' page.

Please note - If your child is eligible or becomes eligible for free school meals at any time before 31 March 2022, they will remain eligible until this date or beyond dependent on what school phase (see below) they are in. You will not need to apply for Free School Meals again if you are already eligible at a Sandwell School.

### **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.

To register, please follow the below link to the Sandwell application:

[https://my.sandwell.gov.uk/service/Free\\_school\\_meals](https://my.sandwell.gov.uk/service/Free_school_meals)

Please not hesitate to contact if you have any question.

Thank you

**Owen Morgan**  
**Vice Principal**

