

## **Important Information: Free School Meals and Pupil Premium – Your Child Could Benefit.**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to ensure every eligible child at St John Henry Newman School receives the support they need to thrive, and we need your help. Many families may not realise that by applying for Free School Meals (FSM), your child could also bring valuable funding to the school through the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). Here is what you need to know.

### **What is Pupil Premium?**

The Pupil Premium is extra government money paid to schools to support children's learning and development. We can help you find out if your child is eligible to receive this extra funding. Schools have the flexibility to decide how to best spend Pupil Premium money, and it is the school's job to ensure that children benefit from this additional support.

### **Eligibility for Free School Meals**

Your child may be eligible for FSM if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190.

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,480 for our school. This funding helps us provide valuable support such as support with uniform, extra tuition, additional teaching staff and support with the cost of school trips.

### **Common Myths – Busted!**

There are several misconceptions about Pupil Premium and FSM:

- **Myth 1: "Only children who qualify directly benefit."**  
*Reality:* The whole school can benefit from the funding through enhanced teaching quality and learning resources.
- **Myth 2: "It's just about free meals."**  
*Reality:* FSM provides financial savings, but Pupil Premium funding goes much further, helping to improve the educational experience of all students.
- **Myth 3: "It's only for low-performing pupils."**  
*Reality:* High achievers must also benefit, with activities aimed to provide challenge and enhance their learning experience.

## Why should I register my child for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Applying for FSM is simple, confidential, and can make a significant difference to your child's school life. Here are some reasons why it is worth considering:

1. **Significant Savings:** Families can save over £400 a year through FSM.
2. **Quality Meals:** Our school provides nutritious, high-quality meals that support your child's health and learning.
3. **School Funding:** More Pupil Premium funding means more resources to support your child's education.
4. **Extra Support:** This funding has allowed us to invest in additional staff (support staff, teachers, and pastoral staff), curriculum development, teacher training, support with breakfast club and after-school clubs, subsidised trips, and educational experiences that benefit the entire school community.

## Confidentiality Guaranteed

We understand that some families may hesitate to apply due to concerns about privacy or being singled out. Rest assured; all applications are handled with the utmost confidentiality. Pupils who qualify for FSM will not be treated any differently from their peers. The only difference is that your child may benefit from extra support or opportunities, such as subsidised costs for school trips.

## How to Apply

It is quick and easy to apply for FSM. Visit the [Peterborough City Council website](#) where you will find the application form. Once your application is accepted, the school will be notified automatically. Please note that applying does not mean your child must take the meal every day; it simply ensures the school receives the funding it is entitled to.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will the Pupil Premium (PP) affect my benefits?**  
No, if your child receives the PP, it will not affect any benefits you may be entitled to.
- **How can I ensure the school gets the extra Pupil Premium funding for my child?**  
You need to first check if you can register your child for Free School Meals (FSM).
- **Are children who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM) entitled to the Pupil Premium?**  
Yes, children who are registered for FSM are also entitled to the Pupil Premium. This additional funding helps the school provide extra support and resources to benefit your child.
- **Is my child automatically registered for FSM?**  
No, your child is not automatically registered for FSM, even if they are entitled to a free school meal as an infant. You still need to apply for FSM to ensure the school receives the Pupil Premium funding.

- **My child takes a packed lunch to school. Should I still apply for FSM?**

Yes, even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, it is important to apply for FSM. Registering your child lets the school know they are eligible for the Pupil Premium, which provides additional funding to support their education.

- **Does my child automatically qualify for FSM if they have older brothers or sisters in school who are already registered?**

No, you need to register each child separately.

### **Incentive Scheme**

To encourage more families to participate, we are introducing an incentive scheme: families who complete the PPG form will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 voucher, whether they qualify or not. If your child is successfully registered, they will receive a free book bag.

For any questions, feel free to contact me directly through the office, or visit [school website](#) for more details. Your involvement is crucial in helping us provide the best educational opportunities for every child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

**Jason Sayers**

Pupil Premium Lead

St John Henry Newman School