

Pupil Premium, Free School Meals & Universal Infant Free School Meals



Information for Parents

At St John Henry Newman, we want every child to have the very best start in life. Many families are unaware that by applying for **Free School Meals (FSM)**—even if their child already receives a free meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2—they may unlock significant additional support for their child and bring the school up to **£1,480 of extra funding every year**. This funding is called the **Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)** and it helps us remove barriers to learning for children who may need it most.

Below is a clear guide to help you understand the differences between **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)**, **Free School Meals (FSM)**, and the **Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)**, and why applying is so important.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

All children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** automatically receive a free school meal every day. Families **do not need to apply** for this.

UIFSM Benefits

- Free hot, nutritious meals in R–Y2
- Free daily fruit

However, UIFSM **does not** unlock Pupil Premium funding.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Some families may be eligible based on the benefits they receive.

Why applying matters—even in R, Y1 and Y2

If your child qualifies for FSM, they also qualify for **Pupil Premium funding**, even if they never eat the meal.

FSM Benefits

- Free school meals while eligible
 - Automatic access to Pupil Premium (lasting **six years**, even if your circumstances change)
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Pupil Premium (PPG)

If your child is eligible for FSM at any point, the school receives **£1,480 per year** to support their education.

This funding is used to remove barriers to learning, support academic progress, and ensure equality of opportunity.

What Pupil Premium pupils receive as standard at St John Henry Newman

Every child who is registered for Pupil Premium receives:

- One free uniform item of each type (one polo shirt and one sweatshirt/cardigan)
- Free PE kit
- Free book bag
- **Free books from our literature spine** (chosen to strengthen reading at home)
- Support with the cost of school trips and educational visits

In addition to this standard package, **Pupil Premium pupils are closely “spotlighted” by teachers, leaders and support staff throughout the year.**

This means:

- Their progress is monitored frequently
- They receive additional check-ins to ensure they are not falling behind
- Staff work proactively to remove barriers in reading, writing, maths, attendance or wellbeing
- Interventions and classroom support are put in place quickly
- Leaders track outcomes to guarantee the right steps are taken

We ensure Pupil Premium pupils are known, supported and championed—not singled out—so they can thrive both academically and personally.

Why we strongly encourage all eligible families to apply

Even if:

- your child is in Reception/Year 1/Year 2
- your child prefers packed lunches
- your circumstances have recently changed
- you are unsure whether you qualify

...your application helps your child *and* helps the school.

Many families do not realise that applying for FSM unlocks thousands of pounds of additional support over six years.

How to Apply

The process is **quick, confidential** and only needs to be done **once**.

For Peterborough residents, apply here:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/free-school-meals>

The council will notify the school automatically.

Confidentiality

All applications are handled sensitively.

No child is identified or treated differently—teachers simply know who is eligible so they can provide the right support.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this affect my benefits?

No—FSM/PPG does not affect any benefits you receive.

Does my child receive Pupil Premium automatically in Reception–Y2?

No—you must apply for FSM to unlock it.

If my child prefers packed lunch, should I still apply?

Yes.

PPG is triggered by the application, not by eating the meal.

Do I need to apply for each of children?

Yes—each child must be registered individually. Once you have applied, you do not need to reapply for another 6 years.

Is Pupil Premium only for children working below expected levels?

No.

High-attaining pupils benefit too—funding supports challenge, enrichment and wider opportunities.