

REF: SMS / JBN

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that the government is currently providing additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium'. One of the measures used to calculate this additional funding is the number of pupils at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSMs). For every child registered as having a Free School Meal this year, or in the last six years, Fazakerley High School gets £900 which will be used to support your child's learning and improve their school experience. (Please see our website for examples of how we spend the Pupil Premium funding.) Please note, if you do not want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – but if you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £900 extra to support your child's individual attainment.

As I am sure you will agree, the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding. However, many parents that are entitled to claim FSMs for their children are not aware of this entitlement. Therefore, I invite all parents to follow the steps below to see if your child is eligible to claim FSMs and, if they are, how to claim.

In order to claim FSMs a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support.
- Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State 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 (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Universal Credit.

If you think that you are eligible to apply for FSMs for your child, or if you are not sure, you may want to contact the Liverpool City Council on 0800 0283697 or 0151 233 3009. A member of their team will be able to advise you. When calling, it will help if you have your National Insurance number to hand. In this way, you will be able to register for Free School Meals immediately should you be eligible to do so. Otherwise, go to their website and fill in the brief application form: <http://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals/>

There is a frequently asked questions page on our website under the pupil premium tab, but if you require any further information, or assistance in claiming, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Mathews. The Department of Education website is also a good source of additional information: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium>.

Yours sincerely

James Beaton
Headteacher