



4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear parent/carer,

## 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

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, we get approximately £1,320 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. 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

### 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)

St Mary's C of E Primary School • Main Road • Chelmsford • Essex • CM3 8RJ  
01245 320505 • [admin@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk) • [www.stmaryssw.co.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.co.uk)

St Mary's is a member of the Berlesduna Academy Trust, Company number 10267656  
Registered Office: School House, Church Road, Basildon, SS14 2EX



## 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 schools 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 a packed lunch you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

## How do I register?

Please click on the link to the Essex County Council Website which gives further information on how to apply:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Once your application has been approved the school office can print off a validation certificate using your National Insurance information.

## More information

For more information about pupil premium please visit 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.

[www.stmaryssw.co.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.co.uk)

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact the school office on 01245 320505 or by email [admin@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk)

Your sincerely

Mrs T. Walker  
Headteacher

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