

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**Do you want to save up to £400 each year?**

**Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?**

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I'm sure many of you will be facing increased financial pressure due the current economic climate. Have you considered checking to see if you are entitled to register for Free School Meals? Registration may help you, your child and our school.

The current Free School Meal entitlement is £2.20 each day; £11.00 each week. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals have a daily allowance added to the school catering system, this is available to spend at the till point in the same way as it is for pupils who pay for their lunch. Pupils registered for Free School Meals are not identified by other pupils. Registering might also help you get extra help for things like music lessons or school trips.

Registration for Free School Meals not only brings financial benefit to your family but also to our school. For every child registered for Free School Meals the school will receive an additional **£955 Pupil Premium Funding**; funding helps us to provide additional classroom support, homework and breakfast clubs, 1:1 tuition, additional support in numeracy and literacy, a counsellor and college courses. As a result of this additional funding it is expected that exam results will continue to rise, further progress will be made in maths and more pupils across all year groups will achieve functional literacy enabling them to access the whole curriculum.

For information Parents or Guardians do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive any of the following:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR)
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance (IB-JSA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run on'- the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Some young people over 16 can also get free school meals if they claim a benefit in their own right.

Applications for Free School Meals are easy; simply ring your local Area Education Office with details of your name, date of birth and National Insurance number and an immediate decision can be given – contact details are below.

The application can also be completed simply on-line at:

[www.lancashire.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=kS8Vi9kJLqJ&HideToolbar=1](http://www.lancashire.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=kS8Vi9kJLqJ&HideToolbar=1)

Or an application form can be downloaded from:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/help-with-school-costs/free-school-meals.aspx](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/help-with-school-costs/free-school-meals.aspx)

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