



St. Edmund's

Church of England Primary School

LOVE | RESPECT | COURAGE | TRUST

"Let your light shine."
(Matthew 5)

25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Pupil Premium Funding

The Education Act 1996 as amended, places a duty on maintained schools, academies and free schools to provide free school meals (FSM) to pupils of all ages that meet the criteria. This includes pupils in school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending these schools will be entitled to receive a free meal.

There are 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM**, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- **Expanded FSM**, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

Pupil premium funding: What is it?

Pupil premium is funding given to schools by the government to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. The funding is paid directly to schools and, for every pupil eligible for free school meals.

What are the benefits?

If your child is eligible, there are many benefits that will be available to them across their time at primary school, including: - Additional funding to support teaching and learning - Targeted intervention groups - Support with learning and emotional needs - Free school meals - Subsidised cost of educational trips and visits - Supported access to school clubs

What do I need to do?

Your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding if you are in receipt of, and can provide the relevant proof of, one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance



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- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee 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 - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

We encourage all families who may be eligible to apply by filling in the details below. We understand that some of this information is sensitive and can assure you that any information you provide will be treated confidentially. Please note, you will need to do a new application for each child. You will get an immediate response to let you know if your child is eligible for pupil premium and their school will be informed.

Please visit the link below for further information and to apply:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

To complete an application, you will need to provide:

- Your own name and date of birth
- Contact details
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seekers Number
- Child's name and date of birth
- School your child is attending/will attend

Please do not hesitate to contact the School Office if you need support completing this, or would like school to complete this on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Johnson
Headteacher



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