

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals – potential additional funding for the school

I am writing to encourage any parents/carers who may qualify for free school meals for their child, but have not yet claimed them, to consider applying to Leeds City Council. The form to apply can be found under 'How to Apply' on this webpage: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

This process also applies to students attending Lighthouse School who live outside the Leeds area.

It is very important that all parents on qualifying benefits claim free school meals for their child/children, even if they still wish to provide a packed lunch from home. This is because the school receives significant extra funding for each qualifying child, during their entitlement period and for up to six years after it ends. This funding is called Pupil Premium (currently £955 per pupil per year) and is used enhance learning for students from low-income backgrounds with the aim of raising attainment.

Households in receipt of the following benefits are entitled to free school meals for their child/children:

- income support
- income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190
- the guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
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- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with an annual income of less than £7,400

Please be assured that the system we have of recording school meals is completely discreet and does not identify to other pupils who is in receipt of free school meals and who has a paid meal.

In addition to the above, schools are also awarded Pupil Premium in the following cases:

- Looked-after children (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as a child who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority
- Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order
- Pupils in year groups Reception to Year 11 recorded as 'Ever 6 Service Child' or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence

In order for schools to receive this additional funding, parents and carers need to provide supporting evidence about their child's circumstances, for example, a copy of the Adoption (Court) Order.



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If you require further advice about applying for free school meals, or any information about evidence for Pupil Premium, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of the admin team, and we will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Atkinson

Mrs Katherine Atkinson
School Business Manager – Lighthouse School



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