



# St. Walburga's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Veronica Woodward



17<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents,

## **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. If your child is registered as eligible already, you do not need to register them again.**

### **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 (not Universal Free School Meals, see below)
- 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

For every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals we will be allocated funding. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

### **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)

### **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 school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 but you think they would be eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding. We also issue those that are eligible food vouchers during the half term holidays.

**Does my child have to eat the free school meals if they are eligible?**

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

**How do I register?**

You only need to register once whilst your child is at St Walburga's but you will need to register for **each child separately** if you have more than one. If your child is already eligible and you have already received confirmation from BCP Council, you do not need to apply again.

To register, you will need to complete an online form through BCP Council which you can access directly via their website or by clicking on this link: <https://bcp.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/FSM.aspx> The council will then let you know if you meet the criteria and if your child is eligible or not. Please then remember to let us know by forwarding your confirmation e-mail to us. You can register at any time over the year, particularly if your circumstance change. If you think you could be eligible now, it would be useful if you could **apply by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** to ensure that we have up to date information before our school Census, which takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If your child is already eligible and you have already made us aware, you do not need to apply again.

**More information**

For more information about pupil premium, you can go to our school 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. If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Veronica Woodward  
Headteacher