

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: pupil premium and free school meals**

**If your child is eligible for benefit based '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 Christophers Academy, we get an extra (£1,480 – this figure is for the 2024/2025 financial year) 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 towards:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- School trips
- Music lessons
- Extra-curricular after school clubs
- Support with Uniform.

Every year we review how we use pupil premium funding in line with government guidance.



We have reviewed how we use the pupil premium funding for this academic year and in addition to supporting children's education and wellbeing, we can confirm the following offers are available to you, if your child/children are eligible for benefit based free school meals/pupil premium.

School trips and visitors in school generate a cost and can only go ahead if sufficient contributions are received. However, if your child/ren are pupil premium, we would request half of the contribution towards each occasion.

We will be offering pupil premium children, £25 reimbursement per term towards school uniforms. To receive this offer, you will need to provide the receipt for uniform purchased and indicate if you would prefer to receive this by cheque or back transfer. Please include details of who the cheque is to be written out to, or details of your bank; account number, sort code and name as shown on your account. Please send this to Miss Day. Email: [reday@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:reday@bestacademies.org.uk)

We are also offering your child/ren to attend one extracurricular club per half term. As places are limited, these will be offered subject to availability, free of charge. This does not include the before and after school club. Details of extra-curricular clubs are sent out via our newsletter and are available via the website. If you would like your child to attend a club, please email Mrs Lay and we will try to accommodate your request. You will need to request a place each half term. Email: [klay@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:klay@bestacademies.org.uk)

### **Is my child eligible for benefit based 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 and is eligible for benefit based 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 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 at the school.

To register, you can call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306, option 4 or online via this link [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals) If you choose to call, please have your National Insurance number for yourself and your partner (if applicable), your date of birth, your partners (if applicable) and your child/children's date of birth. If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number.

### **More information**

For more information about pupil premium go to our website,  
<https://www.stchristophersacademy.org>

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact school on [SCA-admin@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:SCA-admin@bestacademies.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Clarke

Executive Principal