



Meadowhead Community Infant School & Nursery

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: pupil premium and free school meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we want to encourage you to register for them as soon as possible. The reason for this is that on 31.3.25 the rule regarding eligibility is changing. So, if your child receives a free school meal under the Universal Free Meal Scheme because they are currently in infants it is still in your best interest to apply now.

This is because at the moment anyone who is in receipt of FSM on 31.3.25 will continue to receive them until the end of the phase of education they are currently in (so it would be until the end of Year 6, their primary phase.)

As they start their secondary phase they would need to apply again and if criteria/parents' financial situation has changed you may not still be able to claim.

Any claim made after 31.3.25 will be regularly checked and if the circumstances of the parents change during that period of education (up to Y6) then the eligibility of the claim will be reviewed and may be revoked.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals do not have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches. However, registering is still really important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets more funding from the government known as pupil premium funding and this money is spent directly on our children.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

- Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following: Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit (PCGC) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190

How do I register?

If you feel your child qualifies for free school meals and you don't receive them now you can apply by visiting <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-and-pupil-support/school-meals>

Kind regards
Mr Waddington
Headteacher