

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND THE PUPIL PREMIUM**

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT**

#### **What are the qualifying benefits?**

Parents and Carers will be entitled to apply for free school meals and/or pupil premium for their child if either parent receives one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based** Jobseekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by the Inland Revenue)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

#### **Frequently Ask Questions**

#### **Can my child get free school meals and pupil premium?**

##### **Infants - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

All children get free school meals if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (also known as Universal Free School Meals)

If you or your partner receive one of the qualifying benefits you can apply for pupil premium to get extra money for your child's school.

##### **Older Children - Year 3 to Year 11**

Your child is eligible for free school meals if you or your partner receive one of the qualifying benefits.

When making your application you are also applying for the pupil premium for your child's school.

#### **Applying for free school meals and pupil premium**

When you apply you will get a decision in writing from Pupil Support at Laurence House. The school will automatically be updated to confirm your child's eligibility for Free School Meals.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and you or your partner are in receipt of qualifying benefits you should still complete the application for pupil premium because your **child's school will receive an extra £1320 funding for this academic year.**

### **What is the pupil premium?**

The pupil premium is extra funding for your child's education. It is provided by the government and is normally claimed as part of free school meals if you or your partner are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits.

### **What happens if my circumstances change?**

You must tell Pupil Support at Laurence House on 020 8314 6221 straight away about any change in circumstance affecting your child's claim for free school meals. Pupil Support carry out regular reviews across the school year to confirm that your child is still entitled to free school meals.