



St Bridget's C of E Primary School

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Together Everyone Achieves More

Our Ref: Parl 1575

Dear Parents and Carers

December 2018

I am writing to notify you of a change in the way the checking of eligibility for Free School Meals is administered. You will be aware that for a number of years the administration of checking pupil's eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) has been carried out on behalf of schools by the Benefits Team at Wirral Borough Council.

Pupils who are eligible for FSM attract significant funding to schools, however, a number of issues have arisen, largely related to Universal Credit and GDPR regulations. This has presented a significant risk of eligible pupils not being identified and therefore a reduction in funding to school. *Key Stage 1 children who are eligible to Universal Free School meals can still also be eligible to Income Related Free School meals and therefore attract extra funding for schools.*

Apply for Free School Meals...

it's quick and easy using the online form at:
<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral>

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at St Bridget's Primary School...BUT YOU MUST APPLY! (*see over for more information*)

Look at the benefits:

- **A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.**
- **Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.**
- **Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth at least £900 a year.**

Remember: Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that St Bridget's Primary School receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. If you encounter problems when you have logged in, please check that all information has been entered correctly in the first instance. If you are still having problems using the system please contact the school office who will pass your query onto the relevant section at the Local Authority. Everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely

Mr Neil Le Feuvre
Headteacher

Do you qualify?

Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Pupils can qualify for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

How does it work?

1. Checking whether you qualify and registering is really quick and easy – do it online at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral>

Alternatively you can complete the form, which is available to download from our website (School Office, Free School Meals) and return to the school office. We can input the information on your behalf.

2. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year) and the school gets extra money to help your child and others in their class.
3. If you don't want your child to have a free school meal they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered the school still gets the extra money.

National Support School
designated by

National College for
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nwlp
leadership
development
placement school


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
OUTSTANDING


RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS
unicef
UNITED KINGDOM
LEVEL 2


SCHOOL
GAMES
GOLD


MATHS
NO PROBLEM
ACCREDITED SCHOOL


Ofsted
Outstanding
School
2012-2013


Healthy Schools


Equalities