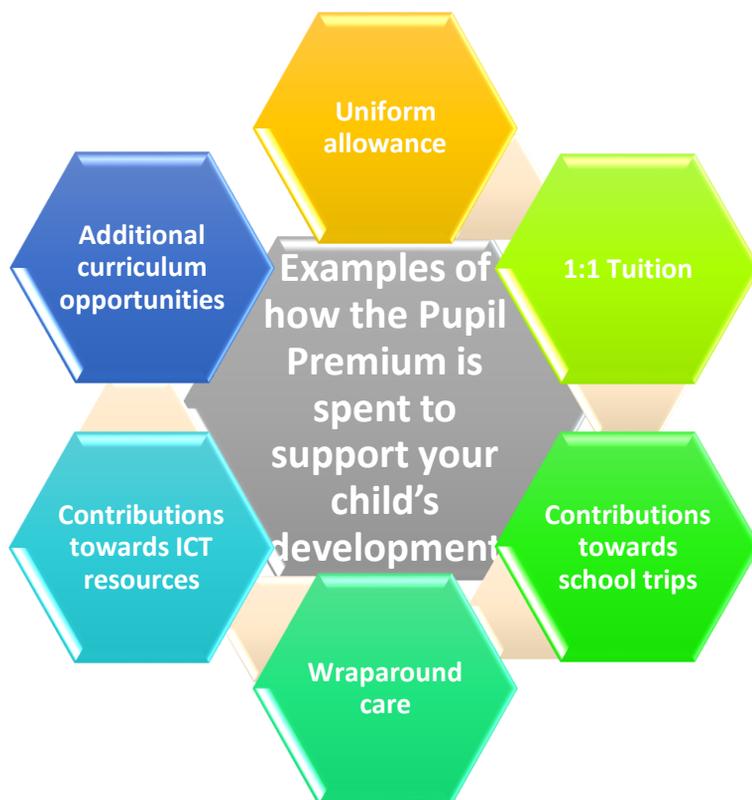


Is your child eligible for the Pupil Premium?



If you think you may be eligible, please see Mrs Laity or Mrs Calcraft in the office.



Free Schools Meals and Pupil Premium Information

Currently, pupils in Years 1 and 2 as well as Reception children all receive free school meals, these are paid by government funding. This provision is called Universal Free School Meals or UFSM.

In addition to this funding, parents in low income families or those that are unemployed can also apply for Pupil Premium funding so that their children can receive free school meals in subsequent school years (Year 3 and onwards). Pupil Premium funding can also give children access to some discounted educational trips and events throughout their school years.

Please read on to find out how to check if you are eligible and if so how to apply for this financial support.

Introduction

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

If you qualify, your child/children can receive free school meals and reduced costs towards some additional school activities (e.g. Yoga, Swimming Lessons, School Camp) or curriculum enrichment opportunities such as learning to play the violin or guitar. If you are registered for Pupil Premium you may also get help with the cost of day trips and residential trips. In addition to the above support, you will also receive financial help with the cost of your child's first school uniform.

For every child registered, St Mary's will receive £1,320. This additional funding allows us to provide an even better education for your child through providing additional opportunities, the purchase of additional resources or staff to support learning.

Are you eligible?

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you receive any of these benefits:

Please note you are not eligible if you are in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

• 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 you 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

How to apply

- Registering is really quick and easy – you can apply online at <http://myfreeschoolmeals.com> and get an immediate answer. If you are eligible, your child's school will be notified within 5 working days.
 - If your application is successful, please see Mrs Laity as she will give you a form to complete for the school.
- 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.
- If you don't want your child to have the free school meals, they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, you still get discounts for some educational activities from the £1,320 extra the school receives.
- If you have any problems with applying for this support, please call Mrs Laity in our school office – 01872 276689.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.