



St Mary's CE VC First School

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Head Teacher: Suzanne Garner BA (HONS) OTS

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools to raise attainment and support the individual child by providing specific support. This can be awarded when families are in receipt of certain benefits. Pupil Premium families are entitled to claim for an annual Clothing Allowance, Free School Meals and Milk.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Will my son/daughter qualify for pupil premium funding?

To be eligible you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income that does not exceed £16,190
- Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are also entitled to the PP funding.

Applying for Pupil Premium funding

Your child must attend a state-funded school in the Dorset County Council area. The County Council will make automated checks to confirm your entitlement. If you qualify, they will tell you immediately and then write to you within three working days to confirm. The arrangements for checking benefit evidence does not disclose how much you receive, or which benefits you receive. **Please apply even if your child is receiving the universal free school meals in Reception, year 1 or year 2.**



Parents of children who might be entitled are **strongly encouraged to apply** for pupil premium funding because it enables school to access additional funding which is used to provide additional support to improve access to learning. It is up to the school how the money is spent, but Ofsted check that they have used it to help raise attainment of pupils from lower-income families where performance tables show that their attainment tend not to be as good as their more affluent peers. This can add up a lot of additional funding to a school and can be used to really help children to achieve well as they move on through their schooling.

How long will a free school meals award last?

For as long as your child continues to attend a Dorset school and you continue to receive one of the qualifying benefits. You are required to notify us of any changes to your benefit status which may affect your continued entitlement.

To enquire or apply telephone Dorset Direct on 01305 221000 quoting your National Insurance Number.

Or apply on-line at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/free-school-meals>

When your eligibility has been confirmed, please bring the letter from Dorset County Council to the school office so we can provide you with a uniform claim form.

If you any questions regarding the Pupil Premium funding, please speak to myself or Bev Hayes in the school office.

Yours sincerely

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