

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND PUPIL PREMIUM INFORMATION SHEET

The government currently allocates additional funding to schools called Pupil Premium (PP) if a student is in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) or has received FSM in the past six years. There are also other students who meet the funding criteria such as children from Service families or those looked after by the Local Authority.

Pupil Premium Plus (PPPlus) has also been introduced which provides further funding to schools for pupils who meet any of the following criteria:

- ✓ have been looked after for one day or more
- ✓ are adopted
- ✓ leave care under a special guardianship order or a residence order

The process of claiming FSM has been simplified in recent years and now just takes a telephone call to the Freephone number **0300 300 8306**.

Even if you register for FSM your child does not have to actually claim a meal; although we would encourage your child to enjoy a healthy, nutritious meal from our superb catering facilities. In addition, if your child is entitled to FSM and, as a result attracts PP, we may be able to provide additional support.

In order to qualify for FSM a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits;

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income-based employment and Support Allowance
- ✓ Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- ✓ Child Tax Credit and you are not receiving Working Tax Credit and with an HMRC-assessed household annual income less than £16,190
- ✓ Guaranteed Pension Credit
- ✓ Support from the National Asylum Support Service

If you think you are eligible to apply for FSM for your child, or if you need further information, please call the Central Bedfordshire Council Customer Services helpdesk on **0300 300 8306**. A member of their team will be able to advise you. When calling, it will help if you have your National Insurance number to hand. This will enable you to register for FSM immediately should you be entitled to do so.

For other categories, Local Authorities will inform the school directly of any students who come under the looked after criteria. However, it is up to those who have parental responsibility to decide if they wish schools to know whether children have been adopted, or are under a special guardianship order or residence order and we would encourage you to do this. We do require supporting evidence, for example a photocopy of the adoption order. However, information (e.g. the name of the birth parents) can be concealed. We also need to be informed directly of any students whose parents are serving in the Armed Forces. Please be assured that we are very aware that these are particularly sensitive subjects and we do appreciate the need for confidentiality. For information and requests for support from Pupil Premium and/or to notify school of eligibility of Service family status or further qualifying criteria, please contact:

Mrs Morris (mmorris@prioryacademy.co.uk)