



ST. MATTHEW'S  
Roman Catholic High School

We Pray, We Care, We Achieve

Our Ref: KC

November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: The Pupil Premium and Claiming Free School Meals at St. Matthew's RCHS**

We would like to highlight a really important part of the funding available for your child's education – **the Pupil Premium**.

Schools receive this extra funding directly, based on the number of pupils they have whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. It aims to help pupils from low income families get the best start in life.

The Pupil Premium makes a really important difference to schools and the eligible pupils. **The money goes directly to the school.** It pays for things like school trips, breakfast clubs, or additional teachers and assistants to provide extra support and 1 to 1 tutoring. School reports on how we spend the money on our website.

**Schools receive the Pupil Premium funding for all secondary pupils eligible for free school meals. Research shows that having a healthy lunch relates to pupils doing better at school, so we are keen for eligible pupils to take advantage of both.**

The application process for free school meals in Manchester has recently changed, and not all parents and carers of eligible children know that they now need to apply online. If you do not apply, then our pupils may not receive the free school meal and the school may lose out on getting the Pupil Premium funding, which is a really important source of income for the education of our young people.

**Please see the information on the back of this letter for details of how to apply for free school meals online.**

Please note that if your child is currently in receipt of free school meals at St Matthew's, then you do not need to re-apply.

If you have any further questions regarding claiming free school meals, please email [finance@smrchs.com](mailto:finance@smrchs.com).

Yours sincerely

K.J. Callison  
Assistant Head Teacher

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child qualifies and their school is in Manchester, you can apply online using the free school meal address below:

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

If your child's school is outside Manchester, their free school meals will be dealt with by the local authority the school is in. Go to the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website and enter the postcode of the school your child attends to find out how to get them.

Which children qualify for them?

## **Your child may qualify if you have any of these incomes:**

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ✓ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ✓ The guaranteed part of Pension Credit
- ✓ Child Tax Credit (as long as your annual gross income is £16,190 or less and you don't get Working Tax Credit)
- ✓ Working Tax Credit run-off after you come off Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Universal Credit that you applied for on, or after, 1 April 2018. As long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax, not including any benefits
- ✓ **Your child may qualify if you are an asylum seeker**

## **How long can they get free school meals for?**

Children who are eligible for free school meals now will be eligible for them until either:

- ✓ They finish school
- ✓ If on 31 March 2022 they are still in school, until they finish the phase of schooling they are in (primary or secondary) whichever is sooner