Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

Is my Child Eligible for Free School Meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit (subject to earning thresholds)
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Guarantee state Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding to support with educational provision.

Does my Child Have to Eat the Free School Meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

What is Pupil Premium Funding?

Pupil Premium funding from the Government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At CFS, we get an extra £1,550 for primary aged pupils and £1,100 for secondary aged pupils for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used Pupil Premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

How do I Register?

You only need to register once at the School.

To register, please follow the link below:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/

More Information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact Mr Collins at dcollins@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk

Kind regards,



Mrs C Halton

Vice Principal: Inclusion