

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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'It Really Does Matter'

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals Explained

Dear Parents/Carers,

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we would like to encourage you to register them. We understand that people's circumstances change from time to time so please check whether your child is eligible.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches.

But registering them is still important because, for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets an extra £1,515 through 'Pupil Premium' funding.

Every child registered for free school meals makes a big difference to the school.

You can find more information about Pupil Premium and how we spend the Pupil Premium funding on our spending plan on our website at:
<https://www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk/pupil-premium>

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

If you receive these benefits, your child may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) if you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - but not if you receive Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, if your earned income after tax is £616.67 per month (£7,400 per year) or less.

You can also check your child's eligibility for Free School Meals using Hampshire County Council website at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

To complete a check you will need to provide the following information:

- Name, home address and email address
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service reference number
- Child or student's name, date of birth and school

How do I register my child for free school meals?

To register for free school meals, you can use the Hampshire County Council website at: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

If you do not have access to the internet, or you would like the school to support you with the application check, please contact a member of the school office.

Please note – you do not need to reply if your son or daughter is already in receipt of Pupil Premium.

We strongly encourage all eligible parents/carers to apply for this status. No one will know who has registered and it will not affect any other benefits being claimed. Any children who are entitled to free schools meals, whether they take them up or not, means that our school is given extra funding to help support their needs. We realise that information of this nature is very sensitive and we can assure you that all such information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

More information

If you have any additional questions relating to Pupil Premium, please contact the school office on 023 8086 3159 or via email at the following address admin.office@abbsch.co.uk
You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Yours sincerely

Abbotswood
Junior School