

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions about free school meals or Pupil Premium, please speak to Miss Churchman or Mrs Farman in the Finance Office at Darlington School. You can call direct on 01702 509202.

External sources

The government's website has information about who is eligible for free school meals, as well as information on how to apply:

www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

You can also read further information about pupil premium funding and accountability for schools at the following link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings

Darlington ACADEMY



Pupil Premium & Free School Meals

Help your school – apply now!

Which pupils qualify for free school meals?

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from NASS under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are **not** also entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

What are universal infant free school meals?

From September 2014 the government introduced universal infant free school meals, whereby parents with children in key stage one (that is reception, year 1 and year 2) in a state funded school are eligible to receive a free school meal for their child.

There is no eligibility criteria, every child in key stage one is entitled.

What are the benefits of claiming free school meals?

School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and they can also save you time and money.

Claiming free school meals also helps the school. We get extra funding, known as the 'pupil premium', for every eligible pupil who is registered.

What is Pupil Premium and how is it used?

Pupil premium is a funding given to schools by central government in order to help all pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation.

The pupil premium grant is not used to pay for school meals. Schools use the funding to improve the attainment of pupils who are eligible.

You will find more information about how we use our pupil premium funding on our website www.darlinghurst.uk

Which children are eligible for pupil premium?

Children whose parents are claiming one of the benefits already listed in this leaflet can trigger the pupil premium funding for the school by making a successful application for free school meals for their child.

Pupils may be eligible if they

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point since May 2010
- Are, or have been in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How can I ensure the school gets the funding?

The more pupils that are registered for free school meals, the more funding the school receives.

Registering does not mean your child has to take up free school meals if they don't want to.

You should still register for free school meals even if:

- Your child already receives universal infant free school meals
- You would rather your child had a different meal, such as a packed lunch

How do I register for free school meals?

You can apply for free school meals online at www.southend.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Alternatively you can download an application form on our website www.darlinghurst.uk or pick up a form from the school office.

The pupil premium funding is not automatic, we need you to apply, even if your child is eligible for universal infant free school meals.