

April 2012

Dear Parent

Please consider the following information to find out if you qualify for Free School Meals (FSM), FSM can save each family around £320 per annum and the Department for Education awards £430 per pupil to school to support the education of children who qualify. It is important that you register if the school is to get the funding to give the best support for your child

Free School Meals

It is the duty of the Local Education Authority (LEA) to provide a meal for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Schools and some colleges also offer this facility to students who are receiving a support payment in their own right, up the age of 20 years.

1. Do I qualify for free school meals?

You will qualify for free school meals if you or your partner are receiving:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA(IB))
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) (ESA (IR))
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by the Inlands Revenue, that does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

2. What do I do if my benefit stops?

You must tell the council's benefit service immediately if the benefit or support payment which entitles you to free school meals stops.

If your benefit or support payment stops due to a change from one qualifying payment to another tell us straightaway as we may be able to award free school meals on a temporary basis until you can provide details of your new circumstances.

Free school meals application form

This form can be obtained from:

- School – ask for Mrs Newey ext. 243
- The Benefits Service at the Firs Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1XU – by calling in person or telephoning 0845 111 2855
- Walsall Council website under the Free School Meals tab.

3. How long will my child get free school meals?

Free school meals are awarded for the period of your qualifying benefit or support payment. It is important therefore that you tell us if your circumstances change.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Sedgwick
Assistant Headteacher

Your future starts here

