



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Mill Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2TH
Telephone: 01384 818435 - Fax 01384 818436
Website: www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk



Archdiocese of Birmingham
Dear

Principal: Ms O' Beirne

Parents and Carers

Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

You may be aware that the government is currently allocating additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium'. One of the criteria used to calculate this additional funding is the number of pupils at a school who receive Free School Meals (FSMs). In common with most schools it is likely that a number of parents/carers whose children attend St Mary's fail to claim FSMs, even though they are entitled to them. **It is therefore important to sign up for free school meals, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2**, so that we receive as much funding as possible.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs I am writing to all parents and carers to ask them, if they believe that they may be entitled to claim FSMs for their children and do not already do so, to make a claim. As I am sure you will agree the children at our school can only benefit if we are able to attract additional funding. Not only that, our catering team provides an excellent range of healthy lunch options that are enjoyed daily by a significant number of our pupils. Your child may well be able to access these free of charge.

In order to claim FSMs a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (but no Working Tax Credit is being received by the claimant or his/her partner and the combined annual income as assessed by HMIR on a TC602 form is not above £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit.
- Asylum Seeker under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you think that you are eligible to apply for FSMs for your child, or if you are not sure, you may want to contact the Dudley Benefit Services (see attached). Alternatively, applications can be made online at <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Yours sincerely

Ms O' Beirne
Principal

Free School Meals

If you get any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive Free School Meals*

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- 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)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

*If you have moved into the area you will need to complete a Free School Meals Application form

If you need further information or wish to apply for Free School Meals, you can contact Benefit Services by:



Telephone - 01384 814988



Email – freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk



Visiting – Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley
Between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday,
9am and 12 noon Saturday.


Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council