



GUISELEY SCHOOL

February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Are you entitled to Free School Meals (FSM)?

This letter is designed to give you guidance as to whether your child may be eligible for free school meals. This eligibility not only gives your child access to free school dinners, but the Government also provides schools with additional funds called Pupil Premium for all children that are registered for Free School Meals. If you are already in receipt of free school meals, then you can disregard this letter.

The criteria to receive free school meals are set by central government and generally an award can only be provided where a parent/carer/child receives one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- 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 (provided 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 - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

To see if you are eligible, the 'Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Service' www.fsm.lgfl.net is a website where a parent/carer can quickly and easily check eligibility for free school meals.

If eligible, you are not obliged to accept the free school meals for your child however we always want to encourage applications because if your child receives Free School Meals they will be in the 'Pupil Premium Cohort'. This means that they will also receive financial support for some school resources and uniform, where needed.

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Clayton



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Children having free school meals are treated just the same as any other child eating in the dining hall or at one of our other food outlets (the 'Pod' or Sixth-form food outlet). There is an allowance of £2.50 to spend a day (2022-23 academic year rate) which provides a meal deal at lunchtime (main meal, dessert and a drink) or a main meal at lunch time and snack at breaktime. When your child passes by the till the transaction is processed in the same way as for any other child, so nobody knows if the meal is free or paid for via our cashless catering system.

If you think you are eligible for free school meals and would like to apply, please follow the instructions on this link to the relevant form to complete: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals> Please note, an application for free school meals can be made at any time.

If any parent or carer is unsure as to whether they are entitled to free school meals, or has any queries concerning the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance department and we will be pleased to help in any way we can (finance@guiseleyschool.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Roger Gavin
Finance Manager

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