



1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I listen to the news on a daily basis, I have become concerned that some of you may have had changes in your financial situation due to Covid-19. If you are experiencing financial difficulties then it might be worth you exploring whether your child/ren would be eligible for free school meals. This means that the school would be able to issue you with supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 per week, per child while school is closed. Furthermore, the school would be able to support you financially with many other expenses in the future for example; the purchase of uniform, paying for school trips and music lessons etc... Please read the information in the document attached and feel free to contact the office (0161 980 7685) on Tuesdays or Thursdays between the hours of 9.00am and 2.00pm for support from Mrs Heathcote or Mrs Kelly.

### **Pupil Premium and free school meals**

**Check to see if you are eligible at [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford)**

**If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.**

#### **What is pupil premium?**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At the Willows, we get an extra £1,300 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil funding for:

- Educational provisions/resources
- School uniform
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- To subsidise educational visits
- To subsidise extra-curricular activities

**Is my child eligible for school meals? Register now and check, it costs nothing but could help school.**

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance

- Support under part V1 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of 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
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

### **Universal Infant free school meals**

Currently, pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as 'universal infant free school meals' (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register for free school meals because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

### **How do I register?**

In order to make the process easier, the school has invested in an **Online Free School Meal Checker**. The system allows you to check your FSM eligibility online, without having to complete a paper copy. The link to the online application system can be found at [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford)

If you have any problems completing the application or would like the school to complete the application on your behalf, please complete the attached registration form and return it to the school office.

### **More information**

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

If you have any questions or specific concerns, please contact the school office 0161 980 6685 / [willows.admin@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:willows.admin@trafford.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Warren  
Headteacher