



18/03/2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: pupil premium and free school meals – register before 31.3.25 if you are eligible

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we want to encourage you to register them as soon as possible and before 31.3.25. The reason for this is that on 31.3.25 the rule regarding eligibility is changing.

At the moment anyone who is in receipt of FSM on 31.3.25 will continue to receive them until the end of the phase of education they are currently in.

Any claim made after 31.3.25 will be regularly checked and if the circumstances of the parents change during that period of education (up to Y11) then the eligibility of the claim will be reviewed and may be revoked.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals do not have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches. However, registering is still really important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets more funding from the government known as pupil premium funding and this money is spent directly on our children.

When a child is in receipt of free school meals, the transactions are exactly the same as children who are not on free school meals; they will receive a dinner card that is discreetly and automatically topped up with credit to use to buy their daily lunch. From our return from the Easter Holiday in April 2025 the top up amount will be £2.75 per day. The dinner card is universal for all users and there is no differential between the two types of transactions.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit (PCGC) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190



St Bede's

Roman Catholic High School

Believe all things are possible

How do I register?

If you feel your child qualifies for free school meals and you don't receive them now you can apply by visiting <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-and-pupil-support/school-meals>

If you live outside BWD Council's area you will need to contact your local council to claim free school meals.

You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

If you need help applying or have any questions or specific concerns, please feel free to contact us. contact@stbedesblackburn.com

Kind regards

St Bedes RC High School