



St Paul's

Catholic Junior School

Love God Love Life Love Learning

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium funding that will come into effect from 2026. These changes are designed to support more families while also ensuring that additional help is targeted where it is most needed.

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is extra funding given to schools to support pupils who may need additional help with their learning, wellbeing, and access to opportunities.

What is changing?

From 2026, the government is introducing a new two-tier Free School Meals (FSM) system, which will link directly to Pupil Premium funding:

1. Expanded FSM (Core Support)

- Available to a wider range of families than before
- More pupils will qualify for Free School Meals
- Schools will receive a core level of Pupil Premium funding for these pupils

2. Targeted FSM (Enhanced Support)

- For families with greater financial need
- Schools will receive a higher level of Pupil Premium funding
- This allows schools to provide more targeted and intensive support

What does this mean for your child?

- More families may now be eligible for Free School Meals
- Pupils will receive different levels of support depending on need
- The funding helps schools provide:
 - Additional teaching and learning support
 - Help with school trips, uniform, and resources
 - Pastoral care and wellbeing support
 - Access to enrichment activities

Who may be eligible?

You may be eligible for Free School Meals (and therefore Pupil Premium) if you receive any of the following benefits

- Universal Credit (with income within the qualifying threshold)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Mr J Luck
Headteacher
Spring Grove
West Derby
Liverpool L12 8SJ

☎ 0151 228 1159
✉ admins@stpauls1.com



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- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit and within the income threshold)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Even if your child already receives Free School Meals, you may be asked to reapply under the new system.

What do you need to do?

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to:

- Apply or reapply for Free School Meals
- Inform the school if your financial circumstances have changed
- Contact us if you are unsure whether you are eligible

Applying is quick and confidential, and it helps ensure your child and the school receive the full support available.

If you would like help with your application or have any questions, please contact the school office and complete the form below. We are here to help.
Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Luck
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