



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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30 September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Free School Meals Eligibility – Local Authority Identification Service

Starting this term, we will be receiving automated information from the local authority on pupils who are eligible for free school meals. This automated service is only available to children who are resident in Barnet.

To provide this service the LA will be comparing our current pupil list against the list of those families currently in receipt of benefits in Barnet. The LA will not be sharing any information on the nature of the benefits but will just send us the list of pupils who are eligible.

When a pupil is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra funding for that pupil which has to be spent on improving the education for those on the FSM register.

If your child is currently in receipt of free school meals then you do not need to do anything. If you think you may be eligible and wish your child to receive a free school meal in advance of the checking service data being available, you will have to let us know and provide some key information to allow us to undertake a manual check in advance of the above automatic check service (see below for details that will be required). If your address is outside Barnet then the checking service will not cover your family and you will need to provide us with information to allow a manual check to be carried out (see below for details that will be required) if you think you may be eligible. Even if you do not wish your child to take up school meals, please come forward if you think you may be eligible, as both the school and children on the register in particular will benefit from the additional funding.

If you do not wish the local authority to perform this check for your children or if you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kim McKenzie either by phone or email to office@stcatherines.barnetmail.net.

Please note that this is separate from the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme which provides a school meal free of charge to all pupils in year R, 1 & 2. However these children may also be eligible for Free School Meals funding and should take note of the details in this letter.

Many thanks

Mary Ainger

Mary Ainger
Interim Headteacher

Important note:

If you wish to register for free school meals before the checking service runs (approx 9th October) and/or you live outside Barnet and think you may be eligible, please provide us with the following 4 items of information:

- Name of recipient of benefit(s)
- Date of birth of recipient
- National Insurance number of recipient
- Confirmation of current address

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

- 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 the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a gross annual 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

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.