#### **The Calder Learning Trust**

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Head of The Calder Learning Trust - Mr A Guise Head of Calder Primary School - Mrs K Lambert Head of Calder High School - Mr A Taylor

2 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

# **Re: Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding**

#### **Free School Meals**

School children of parents or carers who receive support payments may be eligible for free school meals.

Children can get free school meals, if you receive:

- Universal Credit your net earned income must be less than £7,400.
- Income Support.
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income based).
- Employment and Support Allowance.
- Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit.
- Support payments under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, please register them by using the link: CLICK HERE

## Please note: **You must apply for each child separately**

Additionally, 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 should not 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 because we will receive the extra pupil premium funding.** 

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we will 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 funding?

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 is 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





In this current financial climate this extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer. For example, we have previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- Supporting those experiencing extreme hardship

Your child might also be eligible if you are in a household with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to a maximum income threshold. This is for children of:

- Zambrano and Chen carers (non-EEA nationals caring for a British citizen residing in the UK)
- British National (Overseas) passport holders
- Spousal visa, work visa, or student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status
- Families with a right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- Certain failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

# Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals do not have to eat them. If you are 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.

### 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 Lauren Brierley, Associate Assistant Headteacher to discuss in more detail.

Yours sincerely

L Brierley

#### Ms L Brierley

Associate Assistant Headteacher – Pupil Premium Lead



