



May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

***Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that you save money and the school gets extra money?***

***Register now to make sure we both don't miss out.***

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

With this money we will be assessing all students who are registered for Free School Meals and providing them with any additional support they may need to achieve the best possible academic and pastoral outcomes during their time at the school. Each student is different but the type of extra support that might be provided is additional help with literacy and numeracy skills, support with attendance, specific SEN support or more specialised pastoral help at school. If you are registered for Free School Meals, you will also receive additional financial help with trips related to your child's academic curriculum and the cost of any specialist equipment considered to be essential by the school. The support will vary according to the needs of each student. **Finally**, by registering, you qualify immediately for a daily free school meal, which will save you approximately £350 a year. Our cashless catering system ensures that no child on free school meals can be identified so no one need know as they are treated like every other student.

**You do not need to show paper proof of benefits and you do not have to re-apply each year.**

## ***How does it work?***

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed. Information can be found on the Local Authority website; <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>
2. **Registering is really quick and easy** – if you think you qualify, contact East Sussex Local Authority direct on 01273 481388. You can apply on the local authority website by clicking this link: [Apply for free school meals online](#).

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**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

3. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £350 a year), extra benefits and the school gets £935 extra.
4. If you don't want your child to have the school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £935 extra.

***No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are receiving.***

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emily May  
Headteacher

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