



# Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

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Headteacher: Mr S Bardon B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer

## Did you know.....

For every child registered for a free school meal, the school will receive either £1,300 for every eligible child in Year 5 and 6 and £935 for every eligible child in Year 7 and 8, to spend on extra resources. If you are a member of the armed forces the school receives £300 per child.

The Government gives this money to school to help children from lower income or service families do their very best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'.

### **Pupil Premium funding helps Ryecroft to provide additional support such as:**

- 1:1 Tuition Support offered by additional external teaching staff.
- Small group work offered by existing teaching staff within school as well as additional external teaching staff giving additional capacity within timetables.
- Increase teaching assistant support to increase targeted support.
- Providing vulnerable young people with personalised packages of support, guidance, and learning and development opportunities to have a positive impact on outcomes and improve their life-chances.
- YESS – confidential one to one counselling sessions to enable individual support to students with issues of bullying, self-esteem and family issues.
- Providing a daily free breakfast or break time snack for all eligible children.

### **In addition if you are registered you could also get help towards the cost of:**

- Educational Visits
- Musical Tuition
- School uniform/equipment/after school activities.

### **Savings for your family**

If you were planning to pay for your child to have school meals or are already doing so, you could save around £350 per year, if your child qualifies for free school meals.

### **Think of the time you'd save**

If your child is eligible and has free school meals instead of packed lunches, you could save up to 190 hours a year, which is the time needed to make packed lunches that meet the nutritional standards of school meals – that's just over a week!

If you **qualify and register** for free school meals but don't want your child to have the meal they can continue as normal, but the school and your child **still** qualifies for this additional funding.

### **What you need to do**

Parents can apply for free school meals on line at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

By applying online applicants will be informed immediately if they are entitled or not.

As soon as entitlement is confirmed, the school is notified and your child will start to receive free school meals. If you cannot access the online application form or you need assistance in completing it, we can offer you the use of a computer in school and an administrator will be available to help you - or complete the application form in your presence on your behalf.

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This system removes the inconvenience of you having to provide the school with documentary evidence of entitlement. The criterion for free school meals is:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit and those whose annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) does not exceed the income threshold set by the Treasury, currently £16,190
- The 'Guarantee' element of the State Pension Credit

PARENTS RECEIVING WORKING TAX CREDIT ARE **NOT** ELIGIBLE.

**Registering will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.**

**Our Catering Staff are made aware of the names of pupils registered for free school meals so your child needn't worry about standing out when queuing for their meal.**

### **Service Families**

If you are a Service Family, please provide us with details of which service one or both parents/carers are members.

### **Children adopted from care**

For the 2014-15 financial year, the school received £1,900 for children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (which came into force on 30 December 2005), or who left care under a Special Guardianship or Residential Order. Parents must self-declare that their child is adopted by providing evidence to the school e.g. a copy of the adoption order. This will then trigger payment of the Pupil Premium to the school.

It is important to stress that Pupil Premium funding is not ring-fenced for the individual child that attracts it. Whilst schools are held to account for the achievement of pupils who attract the Pupil Premium, schools have the flexibility to spend the additional funding as they see fit. A school may, for example, decide to train their staff in recognising and responding to attachment-related issues; or that a particular adopted child needs tailored support. Alternatively, a school may decide that a whole class intervention is appropriate, resulting in other pupils that do not attract the Pupil Premium benefiting from this alongside those who have been adopted from care

**If you are eligible please register as soon as possible to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out.**

Yours sincerely



**Mr S Bardon  
Headteacher**

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