

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ
Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA
Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

December 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Eligibility for Additional Funding- Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

I am writing to provide you with updated information about additional funding for your child. At St Thomas More, we want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help students to establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve students' readiness to learn and support them to sustain their focus throughout afternoon lessons. Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals.

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

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross 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 – provided you have an annual net income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of the most recent assessment periods (not including any benefits you get)

Children may also get FSM if they receive any of these benefits directly, instead of through a parent. This is explained on the [GOV.UK website](http://GOV.UK).

Your child might also be eligible if you're 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

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA

Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

- 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

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also qualify for the [Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#). Food vouchers may also be available through [Food Vouchers | Food Vouchers | Stoke-on-Trent](#). For information about other support, visit the [Household Support Fund](#). If you receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above, or if you want to check eligibility as a family with no recourse to public funds, please complete our FSM Eligibility Checker below. Children confirmed as eligible for FSM will help their school to receive extra funding.

If you receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above, or if you want to check eligibility as a family with no recourse to public funds, please complete the FSM Eligibility Checker on the www.stoke.gov.uk website, using the link below:

[Free school meals | Free school meals | Stoke-on-Trent](#)

[Citizen Portal - Sign in](#)

If you live outside of Stoke on Trent, to check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals and therefore Pupil Premium funding, there is a postcode search tool on the Government website at [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals will automatically have £3 added to their in school account every day but don't have to eat the meal if they wish. If you're 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's learning and development in other ways. The government has increased this additional funding this year for **Pupil Premium to £1050 per student which is used to support your child's education**, helping the school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. Please note that pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. It can be used:

- to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer
- for whole class interventions which will also benefit other pupils


All Saints Catholic Collegiate

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA
Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just those who are unemployed, please look at the list on the previous page.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – please use the link listed above, or if you need support, please contact school reception.
3. Please register if you want your child to have a free, healthy school meal at lunchtime which will save you more than £400 a year; the school will also get £1050 extra to support your child's education.
4. If you don't want your child to have school meals, you could still register your child and he/she can continue with packed lunches as usual – but the school will still get £1050 extra to support your child.

Please note that this information is managed confidentially and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. **Please help us to claim the money that the school is entitled to receive to support your child.**

This year, **all** students in the Academy have access to a **free breakfast** bagel in school each school day, which can be collected from the school Dining Hall between 8.30am-9am. We also run a uniform donation scheme where families can donate any St Thomas More uniform items that they no longer use, which can be redistributed to families in need. If you have any clean and undamaged uniform items that you would like to donate, please drop them into our school reception.

All students have access to **homework / study facilities** every day after school in the new Learning Resource Centre. Computer access will be available at this club, as well as support from a dedicated member of staff. If your child would like to attend, they do not have to book a place but can attend as regularly as they wish.

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA
Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

Additional Support:

This year, we are working with the Digital Poverty Alliance to provide families in need of technology to support their child's learning with a free computer, under the 'Tech4Families' scheme. If your child does not have access to a suitable device at home, you can apply (even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium) through <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/tech4families/> or using this link [Application Form - Tech4Families - Digital Poverty Alliance](#) and provide the name of your child's Form Tutor as the in-school contact. We will review and verify your application; many of our families have been successful this year so far in gaining a free device.

We work with local charity the HUBB Foundation to provide a range of opportunities; you will be contacted with more information about these later in the year, but if you are interested in benefitting from future schemes like this, please email the school office expressing your interest.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

Mrs S Barker
Assistant Headteacher