



## WITH THE POWER TO ACT

### Free School Meals Eligibility Changes

The Government has made changes to the eligibility criteria for pupils receiving free school meals. Free school meals are now available to any family in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

### **I don't claim free school meals – do I need to do anything?**

Registering your child not only provides free healthy meals every lunchtime, it raises an additional £900 for the school from the Government. This money is used by the school to offer pupils invaluable additional support and to fund after-school activities. To check whether your child is eligible, please contact the school office via email: [info@christtheking-school.com](mailto:info@christtheking-school.com) or via telephone on (01704) 56512 and they will provide you with a short form to complete. Using this information, we can check if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and, if you receive Universal Credit, that your earnings do not exceed the threshold. If you are eligible, your child/children will receive free school meals and the school will receive additional funding.

### **I already receive free school meals – will I stop receiving them?**

If you currently receive free school meals but don't meet the new criteria outlined above, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period (expected March 2022) – this will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education, ie primary or secondary.

### **Confidentiality**

If your child is entitled to free school meals, they will be asked to submit their fingerprint at the till, just the same as any other pupil who is paying for their meal, so no-one will be aware of your child's entitlement.

### **Where can I find out more?**

You can find more information on eligibility criteria at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals.aspx>. If you think you meet any of these, you can apply for Free School Meals by contacting our School Admissions and Pupil Support team on (0151) 934 3263/3246 or by completing and returning the Free School Meals Application Form attached. If your claim is successful the school will be notified that your child is eligible for Free School Meals. This information will be treated with the strictest of confidence. You can also contact our School Business Manager via email: [dbernard@christtheking-school.com](mailto:dbernard@christtheking-school.com) or telephone on (01704) 552014.

Thank you for your support and for helping to make sure the school receives as much funding as possible to give every pupil the support and education they deserve.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Wheeler  
HEADTEACHER