



PROUD TO BE A PART OF



WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Rise, Walton On The Hill, Stafford ST17 0LJ

Telephone: 01785 334 917 | Email: office@walton.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.waltonstaffs.com

Headteacher:

Mr A Leese BA (Hons) NPQH

December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Eligibility for Additional Funding- Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

I am writing to provide you with important information about additional funding that might be available for your child. At Walton, 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, and 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 receive 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 - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who receive paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals. 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 explained on the GOV.uk website.

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 the **Household Support Fund**. More information can be found here: [Household support fund - Staffordshire County Council](#)

To find out more, please visit [Who can apply for free school meals? - Staffordshire County Council](#).

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals, please complete the FSM application using the link below:

[Apply online - Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just those who are unemployed, please look at the list above.

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 could save you more than £400 a year; the school will also get **£1075 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 £1075 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.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals will automatically have £3.20 (the value of a school meal deal) added to their school account every day, but they 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 also receive Pupil Premium 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 **£1075 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 funding 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, and for whole class interventions which will also benefit other pupils

This year, we will be running a **uniform donation scheme** where families can donate any Walton 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** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3.15pm-4.15pm in Student Support (room 31). 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.

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 [Tech4 Families – Digital Poverty Alliance](#) using this link [Application Form – Tech4Families – Digital Poverty Alliance](#) and provide the name of your child's Form Tutor as the in-school contact. A member of staff in school will review and verify your application for the Tech4 Families scheme.

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 faithfully,

Mrs S Barker
Deputy Headteacher