

## Free School Meals (FSM)

## Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

**They are not the same thing!!!**

**Free School Meals (FSM)** have been in place for many years following the 1944 Education Act and are available to all school aged children if you receive ANY of the following:

- Income Support.
- Universal Credit.
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income related Employment Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State 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).

You can obtain an application form in school, from our website, or online at

<https://ww3.wirral.gov.uk/ECS/scripts/ECSMain.asp?nextpageid=DisplayIntroDetails>

Claiming should be straight-forward. **Each child needs to be registered; younger siblings are not automatically added.** However, we realise that some parents/carers may need some support. Please do not hesitate to ask to speak to any member of our office team or visit your nearest *One Stop Shop*.

**Information regarding those who are eligible for FSM is kept strictly confidential at Liscard Primary School.** All children and families are treated in exactly the same way, there is no difference in the meal provided for a child who has a paid school meal or FSM – it wouldn't be possible as the staff providing those meals do not know who is eligible.

**Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)** is a new scheme starting in September 2014. The government has decided that from this date, all pupils in Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 2 should be able to have a free school meal at lunchtime. This offer does not depend on your household income or whether you receive any benefits – every child in these year groups is eligible to take up the offer.

### **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE**

If your child is in Foundation 2, Year 1 or Year 2, they will receive a UIFSM. However, **if you meet the eligibility criteria for FSM** (shown above), it is extremely important that you claim for this. The meal your child receives will be no different. **Please complete the attached form.**

Schools now receive funding from the government for every child that is or has been registered for Free School Meals (FSM) at any time in the last six years. This additional funding is called **Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)** and is used to support children's learning.

PPG is paid to schools in accordance with Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 and should be used to:

- Raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers; and
- Support children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces

At Liscard we use PPG in a number of ways; please see our website for more information and our School Meals Information Booklet.