16 November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Information and Advice about Pupil Premium Funding and Service Children

Please read this letter even if you think this may not apply to you – there have been cases where parents have not understood that this may be relevant to them.

As you may know the government currently allocates additional funding to schools in the form of The Pupil Premium. This additional funding is for those that are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or who claimed FSM at any point in the last six years (Ever 6 FSM). It also includes children adopted from care (CLA), or those who have left care (Post-CLA) and also includes any students who parents are in the Regular Armed Forces (Service Pupil Premium).

The Secretary of State for Education has two policies regarding this money; Pupil Premium is used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged students of all abilities to reach their potential and, Service Pupil Premium is used to support children with parents in the regular armed forces through pastoral support.

Across the country the data from central government shows many parents/carers do not currently take advantage of available support. Whilst I appreciate that this is a personal choice you should all recognise that having this extra funding in School at a time when funding is being cut will only benefit your children.

To this end we are encouraging those that have not applied to apply and those that have applied in the past to re-apply if you are not already claiming the benefit. If you receive any of the following:

LIST A

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don’t get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).
LIST B - For service children

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- they have been registered as a ‘service child’ in the School census at any point since 2011
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the student receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme and, also those that have left including through injury for up to a maximum of six years
- students with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service are classed as service children

If you are in receipt of any of the following from LIST A then please apply if you are not currently already receiving the FSM premium.

To apply it takes only 5 minutes and you will need your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply. You will need to click here for the Hertfordshire application page scroll down to the link which reads ‘Apply for free school meals (year 3 and older)’.

If you qualify under LIST B and want to declare this to the school so we can receive funding to support your son/daughter, it is reasonable for the school to ask for identification to prove this. This is normally your Military Identification (ID) Card. Please see the MOD document DCYP-CEAS-INFO-09 for more information.

The Pupil Premium Grant Rickmansworth School receives depends on various factors; how this money is spent is entirely at the discretion of the School. Rickmansworth School is always looking to improve its provision to have the most impact where it is needed. I will be in contact about these changes in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Titley
Assistant Head Teacher