

Free school meals and pupil premium for key stage one pupils.

The October 2014 census data showed the impact of the introduction of universal infant free school meals on the numbers applying for free school meals. We have an increased level of pupils in Reception but an 8% decrease in numbers of pupils across the city entitled to free school meals (FSM). There is also a slight decrease across the city in pupils in Years 1 and 2 claiming FSM. The impact on individual schools will be to lose out on pupil premium payments (£1320 per child) so action was taken by schools to encourage all parents, particularly those with children in Reception, to make applications before the January 2015 census.

Schools shared ideas on how to encourage take up:

- Completion of FSM forms as part of the induction process for new pupils
- Regular flyers to parents with key messages that identify the difference pupil premium funding can make
- Offers of free uniform items or uniform vouchers to all those applying
- Offering reduction costs for school trips to those applying
- Use of learning mentors or other staff to make direct contact with parents about applying eg at parents evenings
- Checking FSM pupil lists and identifying any siblings in infant classes so that specific pupils who will qualify can be identified.

The School Admissions and Benefits Team issued a revised application form which highlights the need to apply to assist the school with pupil premium payments.

January 2015 census data was not available at the time of completing this report but we will hope to provide an update of the impact of this work at the meeting.

Sue Heawood
Admissions and Benefits Manager