

Dear Parent / Carer

Free School Meals/ Pupil Equity Fund

If you are on a low income or benefits and have children at school then you could be eligible for free, tasty school meals for your children.

Why Choose a School Meal?

School meals provide a third of the nutrients required for growth and development and meet the Scottish Government's nutritional requirements for food and drink in schools.

A school meal encourages healthy eating from an early age and provides lots of variety and choice. Bread is included with each school meal and drinks such as chilled fruit juice, milk or water is available. Vegetarian, medically prescribed diets and special dietary needs can also be met where possible. Eating a balance meal at lunchtime has been shown to help concentration during afternoon lessons. School meals also provide the opportunity to develop the social skills of eating within a safe, supervised dining room environment.

Pupil Equity Fund

As part of a recent Scottish Government Campaign £120 million has been provided to help raise attainment with a focus on supporting those children and young people who face barriers to their learning due to the impact of poverty. The funding is called Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

PEF is allocated based on the numbers of children and young people from P1 to S3 receiving free school meals in each primary, secondary and special school in Scotland. The funding is available for the financial year 2017/18 and is expected to be available each year for the lifetime of the current parliament.

For each pupil who is registered for free school meals, their school receives £1200 pupil equity funding from the government. This money is to help your school to fund a wide range of initiatives to support achievement.

If you are eligible for free school meals, please register your child now. Even if your child does not wish to take up the option of having the free school meal every day,

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we would encourage you to register so that the school will receive the pupil equity funding to support learning.

Registering is easy and will only take a short time to complete. Application forms can be accessed in the following ways-

- On line at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolmeals
- From your child's school office
- From Education and Children's Services – telephone 01224 523237

Translated letters and forms are available from the Translation & Interpretation service. They can be contacted by email at the following address
InterTrans@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher