

### **Free School Meal and Clothing Grant Updated Information January 2023**

Many young people at Hyndland Secondary School are entitled to Free School Meals - £1.90 per day toward the cost of food at school. This soon adds up and in a year totals around £350 that you may be missing out on. As a Parent Council we are aware that not all parents apply - in fact the number of young people receiving Free School Meals has fallen at our school.

Here are some facts about Free School Meals. We hope you will consider applying if you think your family may be entitled to this money.

#### **How is it paid?**

A Q-Card will be issued to your young person allowing them to spend up to £1.90 per day. As ALL our young people are issued with Q-Cards this system is very discrete. In the past there may have been some embarrassment for young people as it was easy to tell who received free school meals. With the system we have now, nobody knows.

Commented [f1]: They can spend more than that

#### **What can it be spent on?**

The Q-Card can be used to buy food at school during breakfast, lunch or interval

#### **Is my family entitled to Free School Meals?**

Click the following link to find out

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17885/Clothing-Grants-and-Free-School-Meals#:~:text=Free%20School%20Meal%20Eligible%20Benefits&text=Child%20Tax%20Credit%20only%20with,names%20and%20your%20annual%20income.>

Commented [f2]: Link is out of date – 2017/2018

#### **How do I apply?**

Even if a young person already receives free school meals and/or clothing grant and the family circumstances have not changed **you must reapply every year**. The application window opens in June each year and you should aim to **complete this by the August**.

If you are making a new application then you can do one of the following-

- Apply online by clicking the link above. You will need to register by creating a my gov account and complete an online form. You will need to upload documents confirming eligibility.

You can use the same form to apply for a clothing grant, **you need to tick the box to apply for both, otherwise you will need to complete the form again**.

#### **Can I get help filling in the form?**

Yes. You can contact your young person's Pastoral Care teacher and they can refer you to our Financial Inclusion Support Officer, Marija Arbetiere, who will arrange a face to face or phone appointment. Or you can contact Marija directly – her contact details can be found by clicking the link below

<http://www.hyndland-sec.glasgow.sch.uk/Blog/Blog.aspx?SectionId=b1f355ab-310f-4e64-8a79-8f416f484a0f>

Marija has access to free school meals and clothing grant team and can get an update on a claim much quicker!

**What food is available at school?**

Our school provides a lunch service which offers a variety of meals and snacks within The Fuel Zone. A breakfast and mid-morning service is also available. Halal and vegetarian options are provided and special diets for children with medical requirements can be agreed.

**What else should I know?**

Even if your young person doesn't eat in school regularly, having Free School Meals may support you and your young person in other ways. Our school receives over £1,200 per year for each S1, S2 or S3 young person in receipt of Free School Meals. This funding (known as PEF) has helped our school in lots of ways including -

- part-funding a school counsellor
- subsidising our study weekends
- subsidising our S1 residential trips
- funding additional time from support staff at the school.

The take-up of Free School Meals at our school is falling although we believe that the number of young people who are entitled to this money has not fallen. As a Parent Council we encourage any parents or carers who feel their family may be entitled to Free School Meals to apply.

If you have any questions or concerns about applying for Free School Meals then please ask to speak to your young person's Pastoral Care teacher or a member of Senior Leadership Team at the school, or get in touch with Marija our FISO and they will be happy to help.

Many Thanks

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council.