

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Should I apply for Free School Meals?**

We would encourage any eligible parents/carers to apply for free school meals as it not only provides the pupil with a lunch, but also helps the school to fund additional support for individual learners. This can be in the form of additional curriculum activities or targeted support. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please head back to the Pupil Premium page of the website for the criteria or contact the school for further information.

### **Is there a stigma attached to receiving a free school lunch?**

The use of cashless catering in our canteen ensures complete discretion and confidentiality for pupils who are in receipt of free school meals.

### **What is Pupil Premium?**

Pupil Premium funding is additional funding allocated to schools based on the number of pupils on roll who are in receipt of Free School Meals (including anyone who has been eligible at any time in the last six years), forces children and those pupils who are looked after (for six consecutive months).

### **What barriers to educational achievement can disadvantaged children at St Richard's Catholic College face?**

Disadvantaged pupils may face all sorts of difficulties which make it harder for them to achieve at school. These obviously vary widely according to each individual.

### **How can schools use it?**

Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit. There is no requirement for the Pupil Premium to be spent on individual pupils simply because they fall into this category. However, it is expected that the funding will be used to support, as necessary, pupils in this group to enable them to make the same or more progress as their peers.

### **How does St Richard's Catholic College tend to use the funding?**

This money is spent to support pupils eligible for Pupil Premium in numerous ways some of which are outlined in our strategy on the website. We also use this money to part fund additional staff, support systems and additional services which, as well as benefiting eligible pupils, will raise the attainment of all pupils at St Richard's Catholic College. Performance data is monitored and analysed on a regular basis throughout the year for all year groups, enabling support to be provided.