



KILKEEL HIGH SCHOOL

*Creating Opportunity ~ Realising Potential
~ Developing Individuals ~*



June, 2015

Dear Parents, Guardians,

It has come to our attention once again that the uptake of FREE SCHOOL MEALS by pupils at Kilkeel High School remains very low when compared with the rest of Northern Ireland for both the controlled and maintained sectors. Unfortunately, this directly affects our annual School Budget Share; there is EXTRA FUNDING available from the Department of Education for the number of pupils on Free School Meals but with our low uptake the school is seriously losing out as far as this much-needed extra funding is concerned! All we need is for more of our families to claim for FREE SCHOOL MEALS according to the criteria set up by DE.

DE is also seeking to increase the number of pupils establishing their right to Free School Meals and has asked us to highlight the scheme to all parents/families. DE states, "There are obvious benefits for families, schools and the Catering Service if uptake and entitlement can be increased. For example:

- The pupil will receive a nutritionally balanced meal at an appropriate time during the school day
- The school will receive additional funding for each pupil for whom entitlement has been established
- Jobs in the Catering Service and, therefore, the local community can be protected through increased or sustained turnover."

The eligibility for Free School Meals (and uniform allowance) is as follows:

1. In receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
2. In receipt of Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income of £16190 or less
3. Where a child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs and is designated to require a special diet
4. Additional eligibility is for any child of an asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

Free School Meals are awarded following the processing of a valid application - Application Forms can be obtained from the School Office or from EA, The Mall, Armagh. Application Forms are sent directly to all families who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals.

My thanks for your consideration of this letter; if you feel that your child is entitled, please ask us for an Application Form, complete it and send it to the Education Authority. In that way, you are ensuring that:-

- your child has a good meal at lunch-time, free of charge
- the additional and very necessary funding which will come to Kilkeel High School will assist us with overall resourcing for the benefit of ALL pupils.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

WD Cunningham

WD Cunningham,
Principal.