

Committee	Dated:
Community and Children's Services Committee	08/06/2018
Subject: Free school meals for all children attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report outlines the proposals to extend the offer of free school meals to all pupils attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. Currently all pupils attending the School in Reception, years 1 and 2 receive a school lunch as part of the Government-funded universal infant free school meals funding allocation to the school.

The proposal is to fund a pilot scheme for the pupils in years 3 to 6 to receive the offer of a free school meal in the financial year 2018/19. The total cost of this is approximately £72,600 for the year 2018/19. The funding will be allocated on the number of pupils taking up the offer of a free school meal each day, so this may vary.

If the pilot is a success, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School will evaluate the impact of all pupils receiving free school meals in the spring term 2019 so that a decision can be made on the sustained funding for this proposal.

This initiative fits in with one of the City of London's key strategic aims of 'Enabling children, young people and adults to learn, thrive and achieve their full potential'.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. All Government-funded schools must offer free school meals to every pupil in reception, years 1 and 2. The universal infant free school meals are funded by the Government and allocated to schools via local authorities. The total allocation for each school is based on the average number of pupils they record in their school census each term.
2. All pupils entitled to pupil premium are also entitled to free school meals.
3. The statutory school food standards apply to schools maintained by local authorities in England. These school food standards are to ensure that food provided to pupils in school is nutritious and of high quality. They also promote good nutritional health in all pupils and protect those who are nutritionally vulnerable by promoting good eating behaviour. The revised standards for school food came into force on 1 January 2015 and are set out in *Education, England: The Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014*.

Proposal

4. This report outlines the proposals to extend the offer of free school meals to all pupils attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. This initiative fits in with one of the City of London's key strategic aims of 'Enabling children, young people and adults to learn, thrive and achieve their full potential'.
5. Currently all pupils attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School in Reception, years 1 and 2 receive a school lunch as part of the Government-funded universal infant free school meals allocation to the school.
6. Research has shown that free school meals enhance academic attainment and encourage positive attitudes to healthy eating.
7. The City of London Education and Early Years Service recently secured funding from the City of London 'Priority Pot' bidding process for funding to offer a school lunch to all pupils in years 3 to 6. This will enable all pupils attending Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to receive a free school meal each day they attend school.
8. The proposal is to pilot free school meals for years 3 to 6 pupils from the summer term 2018 to the end of the spring term 2019. The pilot is based on the view that, if it is successful, it will be sustained, and the funding will become a recurrent allocation to the school.
9. The Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School autumn school census 2017 identified that there are 152 pupils receiving free school meals, of which 120 were receiving universal infant free school meals.

10. Thirty-two pupils were entitled to free school meals in years 3 to 6 via the free school meals or the pupil premium criteria.

Funding

11. Funding has been secured to undertake a pilot for this proposal. The City of London Education and Early Years Service recently secured funding from the City of London 'Priority Pot' bidding process.

12. At the start of the spring term 2018, the daily cost of a meal for one child was £3.00. The cost per pupil for the academic year is £600. There are currently 120 children in years 3 to 6 enrolled at the school. Thirty-two pupils are already funded via the pupil premium or free school meals grant allocation given to the school. These pupils are entitled to free school meals outside of the universal infant free school meal entitlement (see Appendices 1 and 2 – extracts from the GOV.UK website. The funding for these pupils to receive free school meals is allocated to the school via an allocation from the local authority received from the Government for this purpose. However, this figure can vary over the academic year.

13. The proposal is to fund a pilot scheme for the pupils in years 3 to 6 to receive this offer in the financial year 2018/19. The total cost of this is approximately £72,600 for the year 2018/19. Funding will be allocated on the number of pupils taking up the offer of a free school meal each day.

14. For the year 2018/19. It is proposed that the school receives a proportionate amount of funding for each term based on the school census information and the recorded take-up of meals for each term.

15. If the pilot is a success, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School will evaluate the impact of all pupils receiving free school meals in the spring term 2019 so that a decision can be made on the sustained funding for this proposal.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Entitlement to free school meals outside of the universal infant free school meal entitlement

Appendix 2 – Pupil Premium

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Appendix 1.

Entitlement to free school meals outside of the universal infant free school meal entitlement.

(Extract from the GOV.UK website)

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child might also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

Appendix 2.

Pupil Premium

(Extract from the GOV.UK website)

The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers. Pupil premium funding is available to:

- schools maintained by the local authority, including:
 - special schools, for children with special educational needs or disabilities
 - pupil referral units (PRUs), for children who can't go to a mainstream school
- academies and free schools, including:
 - special academies, for children with special educational needs or disabilities
 - alternative provision (AP) academies, for children who can't go to a mainstream school
 - voluntary-sector AP, with local authority agreement
 - non-maintained special schools (NMSS), for children with special educational needs as approved by the Secretary of State for Education under section 342 of the Education Act 1992.

Schools will receive funding for any pupil:

- identified in the January school census or the alternative provision census as having left local-authority care as a result of one of the following:
- adoption
- a special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order)
- who has been in local-authority care for 1 day or more
- recorded as both eligible for FSM in the last 6 years and as being looked after (or as having left local-authority care)

The virtual school head of the local authority that looks after the pupil will manage the funding.