



# Sir Harry Smith Community College

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DW/CM

9<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

## **URGENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM CARE**

The Department for Education has recently announced that it is making changes to the eligibility for Pupil Premium (the additional funding which is provided by the Government to support children from “vulnerable groups” to ensure that they make good progress in their learning).

One of the currently identified “vulnerable groups” is Looked After Children. From April 2014, the fund for this group of children will be called Pupil Premium Plus and will increase from £900 to £1,900 per year per child.

From April 2014, schools in England will attract the Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) on or after 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005. Schools will also attract the Pupil Premium for children who left care under a Residence Order (RO) on or after 14<sup>th</sup> October 1991.

The Department has just announced that, to attract the Pupil Premium for adopted children, and those who are the subject of a SGO and RO, parents and guardians will need to inform the school about their child’s circumstances and provide supporting evidence, for example, the Adoption (Court) Order in time for the school to record the child’s status and make a confidential return to the Department by 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Obviously, the school does not hold this information so, in order to ensure that children in this situation can benefit from this substantial funding, I am writing to all parents to ask whether, if your child meets the criteria above, you are prepared to share this information with us **before 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. This will enable the school to secure the additional funding to support these children as soon as possible.

There is absolutely no obligation for you to share this information with us, but doing so will help both the child and the school. We will need to have this information before 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in order to ensure that we are able to access the funds on behalf of children. I can assure you of complete confidentiality. You can pass this information on by emailing me at [dawn.white@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:dawn.white@sirharrysmith.cambs.sch.uk) or calling me on 01733 703991.

We are grateful for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dawn White  
Deputy Principal