



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Why apply?

- Your child does not need to have the hot meal but could still receive some of the other benefits.
- The government pays schools a Pupil Premium for each child eligible. This could be used for additional support in your child's classroom, or help with school trips or uniform purchase.
- School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal.
- Sitting down together eating a meal helps children develop their social skills.
- Menus, available from the school, are changed regularly.
- There is no distinction between pupils having a free meal and those not.
- Research shows that a hot meal can help children's concentration levels.

Free School Meals are for those pupils aged 4 to 16 (School Years R to 11) who attend both morning and afternoons sessions.

Your child could benefit if you receive one of the following:

- ♦ Income support
- ♦ Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance (IBJSA)
- ♦ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- ♦ Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ♦ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ♦ Child Tax Credit – provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have a 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

Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (ie. they get benefits payments directly instead of through a parent or guardian) may also be eligible for Free School Meals.

NOTE: Parents in receipt of Working Tax Credit are not eligible

Applying is easy – please contact your child's school for more information.

Are you on benefits with an annual income less than £16,190?

If yes, then your child could be having a hot meal every day, which may save you as much as £300 per year?

Even if your child doesn't have the hot meal OR they automatically qualify for the Universal Infant School Meal because they are aged under 7, please claim so that your child's school can receive additional funding to support their education.

