



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

This information is accurate at the time of printing but is subject change as the Government makes policy amendments.

Do you receive income support?

Is your annual income less than £16,190?

There are benefits that could apply even if your child doesn't have a hot meal or is under the age of 7 and qualifies for Universal Infant School Meals.

Could your child be tucking into a hot meal every day and make you savings of as much as £300 per year?



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 or apply online:
<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/rbwm/>