

## Free School Meals and Universal Infants Free School Meals

### Are you Eligible?

You may be eligible for free school meals if your child attends a state school, and you must be receiving one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,190
  - Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
  - Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.

**Please submit an online application via the Citizen's Portal to register your details** with us so that we can keep in touch with any updates.

Go to [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) and click on the 'Free School Meals' option under the 'Apply' heading.

### Does your child already receive Free School Meals?

Please do not be concerned that applying online will affect current arrangements - all eligible families are protected until at least July 2023. We need your permission to communicate with you via email and portal messages, to do this, we need you to use the portal, enter your details and make an application. This will mean reapplying for free school meals for your child(ren) so we can communicate with you.

### ***What is pupil premium?***

*Pupil premium is extra money paid direct to schools for each child who is eligible for free school meals. It is used to support your child's education. **Please apply for free school meals if you are eligible, so your child's school can access pupil premium funding.***

### **What happens after I have completed my application?**

- your eligibility for free school meals will be checked using the Government's automated ECS checker and the application is processed by the Free School Meal team
- if you qualify for a free school meal under the benefit criteria, a message will be sent to you confirming your free school meal award and your child or children's school will also be informed
  - please contact your child's school to find out how your child's lunch will be served

