



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.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

All children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, If you are not on benefits, there is no need to apply, you just need to speak to your school about arranging for these to start. **If you are on benefits and meet the criteria, it is worth applying online for children this age, If eligible, you can receive food vouchers during the school holidays, and your child can attend the Ready Steady Worcestershire School Holiday clubs. This will also allow the school to claim Pupil Premium.**

If you would prefer, please contact the school office who would be happy to complete the application on your behalf.

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