

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

QUALIFYING BENEFITS FOR 2016/17 APPLICATIONS

Registering for free meals could raise extra money for your child's school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed below. It is therefore important to sign up for free meals, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, so that your child's school receives as much funding as possible.

Free school meals are only available in England and Wales.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual 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 paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child might also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

Infant free school meals

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in:

- reception class
- year 1
- year 2

Tell your local authority if you also get any of the above benefits. Your child's school can get extra funding if you do.