

# Free School Meals

## Infant Free school meals

Currently all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically receive free school meals under the Universal Free School meal scheme.

However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

## Free School Meals from Year 3 onwards

From Year 3 onwards, children whose parents are in receipt of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- [Universal Credit](#) – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
  - [Income Support](#)
  - Income-based [Jobseekers Allowance](#)
  - Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
  - Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
  - The Guaranteed element of State [Pension Credit](#)
  - **Child Tax Credit only**, if your annual household income (assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) isn't over £16,190.
- [Anyone getting [Working Tax Credit](#) **won't get** free meals regardless of income]
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Children will get free school meals if they meet the criteria and are in school both before and after lunchtime.

To apply online for free school meals please use this link.

<https://eyeeonline.eastsussex.gov.uk/synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

This link will take you to the East Sussex County free school meals website page.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>