



How often do I need to apply?

You only need to apply for free school meals once.

The types of benefit proof accepted are:

- Recent documentary proof of being in receipt of Income Support (IS), Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) or Employment and Support Allowance – Income Related (ESA IR) from the Department for Work and Pensions
- For those in receipt of Child Tax Credit, most recent Tax Credit Award Notice – Form TC602 from the Inland Revenue
- Recent proof of receiving the Guarantee element of M1000 Pension Credit Award
- Recent proof of NASS letter or IS 96 (if claiming under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- Proof of a Tax Credit Decision Notice (only to be sent if applying for Temporary authorisation)
- Universal Credit.

IMPORTANT

There is no legal requirement for the local authority to backdate entitlement or compensate families for the cost of school meals taken prior to the date an application for free school meals was made.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify us of any changes to their benefit or circumstances during the school year which may affect their entitlement to claim free school meals.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

With the introduction of free school meals for infant children in September 2014 it is still important to confirm eligibility by the methods shown under the "How to Apply" section, this will ensure your school will be in a position to obtain further funding from central government to provide additional support to your child. This funding is also referred to as Pupil Premium. Please check with your local school to see what is available to you.

It is really important that you register your eligibility to help make sure Leicestershire schools are as well funded as possible.

The easiest and quickest way to check your eligibility would be to ring one of the numbers below and our team will be able to deal with your enquiry straight away.



If you have further queries or wish to discuss your eligibility, please contact free school meals on 0116 305 5417

LTS Catering Services,
Room G10, County Hall,
Glenfield,
Leicestershire, LE3 8RE



FREE School Meals and Universal Infant Free Meals

Information for Parents and Guardians

Do I qualify to claim free school meals?



The current criteria to qualify for free school meals are:

- A parent or guardian claiming Income Support (IS)
- A parent or guardian claiming Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- A parent or guardian claiming Employment and Support Allowance Income Based
- A parent or guardian claiming Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- A parent or guardian claiming The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, annual income less than £7,400.
- Children who receive Income Support (IS) or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals

Please Note: these criteria are correct at the time of printing. Please check online for the up to date criteria

No other benefits qualify for free school meals



How do I apply?

Apply online:
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

If you have any queries, please contact the free school meal team via telephone on 0116 305 5417

Please ensure you apply online and inform your school if you consider you may be eligible for free school meals. This will help them to gain the additional pupil premium.

