

Free School Meals

Is your child's school missing out on funding?

More than 11,500 children in Suffolk already receive a free school meal and this saves their families around £437 a year.

We know that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch every day, regardless of their family income, under the Universal Infant Free School Meals regulations. However, if you are receiving one of the benefits below, we urge you to apply for free school meals as this will give your child's school extra funding to help your child learn. This funding is called Pupil Premium funding and gives primary schools up to £1,320 a year extra funding for each child who is eligible for free school meals. This funding is given to the school for six years, meaning **£7,920 extra funding for your child's school** – even if your child was only eligible on the day you apply.

Schools decide how to spend this funding and may support your child in a variety of ways, such as by reducing fees for after school clubs and/or school trips or even extra staff in school.

If you have any questions about this funding, please speak to your child's school.

Is your child eligible?

To register for a free school meal and help your school with extra funding, even if your child is entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal, you will need to receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit **but no element of Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run on (paid during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week)
- Universal Credit.

How do I apply?

It only takes a few minutes to apply online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and you will be told immediately whether your child is entitled. If you do not have access to a computer, tablet or mobile phone, you can visit your local library or your child's school should be able to assist you.

If you have no other means of applying, we can send you a paper application form by calling us on **0345 606 6067** but you will not find out if you are eligible immediately.

Once we've confirmed if your child is eligible we will inform your child's school. If we cannot confirm your eligibility immediately online, it may be due to a change to your benefits or circumstances, so please contact us for assistance on **01473 260989** or by emailing freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk.

Please note: If you already have an older child receiving a free school meal, you do not need to fill in a new application form, just contact us before your younger child starts school full-time on **01473 260989** or by emailing freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk.

Don't let your child's school miss out – apply now!