

Eligibility for Free School Meals

If you receive benefits, you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. School meals are a good way to make sure your child has a healthy meal every day. By eating well at lunchtime, children can remain focussed on their learning.

How does it work?

1. Check if you qualify –please see below
2. Registering is really quick and easy you can apply directly to the local authority online using the following link
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply_online.aspx

Please note that this information is confidential and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

So, do you qualify?

The general low-income entitlement criteria is –

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note the 'new style' job seekers allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance. Please note the 'new style' employment and support allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income
- eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4-week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

Further information about Free school meals can be obtained from the school office or from the local authority. The contact details for the local authority are as follows;

Local authority Website link

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx