



SOMERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE SCHOOL MEALS : ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child will get a free school meal because they are in infant classes, why do I still need to apply?

Although all children in infant classes (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2) will receive a free lunch meal, it is still important that you apply if you might be eligible. This is because, if your child is eligible, the school will receive ££1,320 (2019-2020) per pupil which is used to support the education of your child. This additional funding can be used to really help children to achieve well as they grow older.

Will my son/daughter qualify for free school meals?

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. You must also 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 - 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)

Applying for free school meals

You can apply for free school meals online at

<https://online.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/services/freeschoolmeals/> BCP Council will be able to tell you whether they can give you free meals within a week. They will also send a letter to the school to let us know your children have qualified for free school meals.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact the BCP Council Free School Meals team on 01202 456223.

If you do not have access to the internet or you would like some assistance with your online application please come into school and speak to Mrs Hill and she will be happy to help.

My child has just started school and already has brothers and sisters who get free school meals - do I need to reapply?

Yes - you need to re-apply so that the new child can be included in the family's current free school meals award.

My children qualify for free school meals, but the school will know about my financial situation if I apply. Can I apply without the school knowing how much I receive in benefits?

The arrangements for checking benefit evidence do not disclose how much you receive, or even which benefit you receive.

I am a foster carer. Is the child in my care entitled to free school meals?

If you are a foster carer and are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits listed above, you are entitled to make a claim for free school meals for the child in your care.

Any Other Questions?

Please see Mrs Hill or Mrs Lucker on the Reception Desk who will be happy to help you.