

Do I need to apply if my child is in Year R, Year 1 or Year 2?

The government provides funding to enable us to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 2. However, it is important that you still apply for **benefit related** free school meals as the school receives extra funding. It also means that your child's free meals continue when they move up to Year 3. Once BCP Council have confirmed your child's benefit related free school meal award, the school will issue you with a voucher for one free school jumper each year, as well as a discount on any residential school trips.

Do I have to re-apply each year?

No you don't. If your child is eligible for and gets Free School Meals at any time before 31 March 2023, their eligibility is protected until this date. From 31 March 2023, your child remains eligible until they finish the phase of education they are in.

You do not need to apply for Free School Meals again if you are already eligible at a Bournemouth School.

If you think you are entitled to Apply, please contact the Free School Meals Team at

BCP Council

on

01202 456223.



Somerford Primary School
Draper Road
CHRISTCHURCH
BH23 3AS
Tel : 01202 485436
Email : office@somersford.dorset.sch.uk
Website : <https://somersford.dorset.sch.uk>

Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

Somersford Primary School



Will I qualify for Benefit Related Free School Meals?

Applying for benefit related free school meals is important as the school receives extra funding based on the number of pupils registered for this award. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch to school, please apply as this extra money is used to support your child's learning.
Thankyou.

To receive benefit related free school meals you must be in receipt of one of the following qualifying benefits:

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)

I haven't applied for free school meals because I don't want the school to know about my financial situation.

The school will not be given any information about your financial situation or about which benefit you receive.

How do I apply for benefit related free school meals?

You can apply online at <https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/childreducation/schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx> or by telephoning the **FREE** School Meals Team at BCP Council on 01202 456223. You will need to tell them your :

- Name
- Date of birth
- National Insurance Number
- Child's details - name, date of birth, and school for which you want free school meals

The Free School Meals team will make automated checks and will be able to tell you almost immediately whether you are entitled to a free school meal award for your child.

School uniform allowance and a discount off the cost of residential school trips.

When we receive confirmation that your child is entitled to receive free school meals you will be given an allowance of 1 free school jumper/cardigan every year. In addition, you will also be entitled to a discount on any residential school trips your child may attend.

My children all go to different schools - can I apply for them all at the same

Yes, the award is made for the family - so long as they all attend schools in Dorset just give details of all your children and their schools to BCP Council when you telephone them.

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

Yes you do so that the new child can be included in your family's current free school meals award.

How long will a free school meals award last?

The award will remain in place for as long as your child continues to attend a Dorset school and you continue to receive one of the qualifying benefits. You will have to notify BCP Council Free School Meals team of any changes to your benefit status which may affect your continued entitlement.

