

Free School Meals

If your child was receiving a free school meal during the last school year there is no need to renew your application.

Register for free school meals to help out your school

If your child is eligible for free school meals, it's worth registering them even if they're not going to have the school lunch. This is because schools receive a 'pupil premium' - an extra payment for each eligible child which they can spend on useful services. Registering might also get you extra help for things like music lessons or school trips.

Who qualifies?

Your child may 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
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal credit (**not working**)
- Universal credit (**working and net earnings are less than £7,400 per year**)
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are **not** also entitled to **Working Tax Credit** and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit Run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- If you get support under **part VI** of the **Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**

Children who receive any of the above benefits in their own right (ie they get payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

However, as soon as you stop claiming any of the qualifying benefits listed above, your entitlement to claim free school meals also ends.

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/>

Online applications

Apply by telephone

If you are claiming housing benefit and/or council tax reduction which is assessed using one of the qualifying incomes above, for example Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance, then we should be able to process your free school meal applications and renewals over the phone, so please [call us](#) to apply.

However, if we are unable to process your application when you call, usually because there is no current housing benefit and/or council tax reduction claim in payment, or the income that entitled you to claim free school meals has been ended on your claim, you will need to apply in person.

Apply in person

If we are unable to confirm your entitlement when you ring, you can also apply for free school meals at Broughton Hub or our Gateway centres:

- [Broughton Hub](#), 50 Rigby Street, Salford
- [Eccles Gateway](#), 28 Barton Road, Eccles
- [Pendleton Gateway](#), 1 Broadwalk, Salford
- [Swinton Gateway](#), 100 Chorley Road, Swinton
- [Walkden Gateway](#), 2 Smith Street, Walkden

Staff at these locations should be able to process your free school meals application on a drop in basis.

Documents you will need to produce

If you are applying in person, please be sure to bring documentary proof that you are currently in receipt of any of the above qualifying benefits, or confirmation that you receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (eg IND letter or a NASS letter).

We will be unable to process your application for free school meals unless we have seen the necessary proof that you are entitled to claim.

Need more information?

[If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals](#) you can obtain further information from the Department for Education, their school, by using our [contact form](#).

Please remember, it is of benefit to yourself and your child's school to claim your free school meals.