

Free school meals

Children from households with lower incomes may be entitled to free school meals. Please note that if your child was already receiving free school meals at the end of the 2015/2016 school year, their entitlement will continue and **you do not need to re-apply** for the new 2016/2017 school year.

[Apply for free school meals and/or free childcare for 2 year olds](#)

- families who are currently paying for school meals will save around £400 a year for each primary school child if they are entitled to free school meals
- many schools have systems which mean it is impossible for other pupils to know who is receiving free school meals
- school children who are eligible for free school meals are entitled to a two course meal worth £2.25 for primary and £2.35 for secondary each day
- secondary school children who are entitled to free school meals might also qualify for [help with transport cost](#)

[Read more about free school meals in our fact sheet.](#)

Can we "count you in?"

When you apply for free school meals, you will also allow your school to receive [Pupil Premium](#) - extra money to support children from families on lower incomes, please [apply for free school meals](#).

If you also have a 3 or 4 year old who is in a free childcare place, they may also be eligible for [Early Years Pupil Premium](#).

Your rights

All children who are at school under 19 at the start of the academic year (1 September 2016) and are claiming or have parents who are claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but who are not entitled to working tax credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of state pension credit

Please note where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school meals.

How long does the entitlement last

You will be contacted in writing to confirm when your entitlement has started and your eligibility will continue to be checked via the council's secure Electronic Checking System.

If your personal circumstances change please fill in the [change of circumstances form \(54KB\) pdf](#).

Processing your claim

Your claim will be processed within three working days of receiving a valid application form, and if successful you and your child's school will be informed of his/her entitlement to free school meals.

Please note if your child is attending a school in the list below, you will need to apply direct to the school as they administer their own free school meals.

- [Leverington Primary School](#)
- [Murrow Primary Academy](#)
- [Bassingbourn Village College](#)
- [Gamlingay Village College](#)

What you can do

If you are receiving any of the eligible benefits listed above you can apply online for free school meals.

Alternatively, you can also print and return the [free school meal application form \(pdf, 70kb\)](#).

The application form is also available in [Latvian \(pdf, 77kb\)](#) and [Lithuanian \(pdf, kb\)](#).

What further help can you receive

If you need further help you can contact the council's Education Welfare Benefits Team for information about the benefits which support children financially while at school or college; applications for free school meals, and if you need help to complete an application over the phone:

Telephone: 01223 703 200, email ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Education Welfare Benefits Service
OCT1222 Octagon
Shire Hall
Cambridge
CB3 0AP