



Free School Meals

Changes from September 2026

What is changing?

- The Government is **changing the rules for Free School Meals from September 2026**
- This means **all children who currently get Free School Meals will be checked again before September 2026** to make sure they still qualify
- If your child no longer qualifies, **you may need to pay for their school meals from September 2026**
- **All families receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals** under the new rules
- After this, **children receiving Free School Meals will be checked every year**



Who can get Free School Meals?

Your child may be eligible if you receive certain benefits.

If you qualify, **Free School Meals will be split into two groups**, depending on your circumstances.

Two types of Free School Meals?

Targeted Free School Meals?

For lower income families and those on certain benefits

This includes families who receive:

- Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- No Recourse to Public Funds (ask your school for an application form)

You get:

- Free meals
- Your child's school will receive extra funding, called Pupil Premium, to help support your child
- Families who have recently become eligible for Targeted Free School Meals (FSM) may qualify for our Uniform Incentive. Please contact the School Office for further details.

Expanded Free School Meals

For other families receiving Universal Credit.

- Universal Credit with household earnings above £7,400

You get:

- Free meals only

Infant children (Reception, Year 1, Year 2)

- All children get free school meals
- Please still apply for benefit-related Free School Meals if you are eligible – it helps your child's school provide additional support.

Nursery-age children

- If your child attends a school nursery before and after lunch, they may get Free School Meals if you qualify.
- Apply the same way as for school-age children.
- Private nurseries are not included.

Do I need to do anything?

Already getting Free School Meals?

- You do **NOT need to apply again**
- We will contact you if needed

How to apply

Apply online:



Apply for free school meals | Birmingham City Council



Scan QR Code or go to link

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust>

Need help? Please contact your school office by phone or email.