

Free School Meals & How to Apply

Starting school or moving schools in September 2021

- If you already receive housing benefit or council tax support, or have recently applied, you don't have to do anything.
- If you don't receive housing benefit or council tax support, you need to apply for free school meals

All other children

The same rules apply as for those starting school, or moving school:

- If you already receive housing benefit or council tax support, your income related free school meals will be given automatically and you don't need to apply
- If you have already applied for help with school uniforms, we will look at the free school meals at the same time and you don't need to apply separately
- If you don't receive housing benefit or council tax support, you need to apply for free school meals

When your child gets free school meals, your school will also benefit with additional funding to use in the school.

Income related free school meals

- Income related free school meals can be given to your child in any year at school.
- This includes nursery children if they attend before and after lunch at a local authority nursery school or nursery class.
- If you get any of the benefits below, you can claim free school meals.
 - Income Support
 - Jobseeker's Allowance Income based
 - Employment Support Allowance Income related
 - Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Guaranteed Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit - as long as your letter shows you have an income of less than £16,190 and do not get Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit - your earned income must be less than £7,400 a year

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

How to register

To register, please complete the online application form at:

www.bolton.gov.uk

- Click on the 'Schools and children' button
- Click on the 'Free school meals and clothing allowance' button
- Click on the 'Free school meals and help with school uniform' button
- Click on the 'Apply for free school meals' button and complete the fields as prompted

Please note that if you already receive housing benefit or council tax support, your income related free school meals will be given automatically and you don't need to apply