

Are your children eligible for benefits-based free school meals?

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to free school meals referred to as 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (UIFSM).

But any child in Reception through to Year 11 that meets the Government criteria listed below is entitled to benefits based free school meals. By claiming this, there are also other benefits available to the child and family such as access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme, providing free activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays.

Do you receive one of the following benefits?

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If so, your children may be entitled to benefits based free school meals. Turn over to find out how to apply.

Find us online



www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals

How to apply for free school meals



If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call us on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:


- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- your NASS number, if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service

If your child is aged 16-18 and attends a further education or sixth form college, please contact the college for information about free school meals. If your child attends a school sixth form, please contact us to apply.

As soon as we have confirmed that you qualify, we will tell your child's school that their free school meals can start from the date you apply.

Need some more advice or support? Head to your local Children's Centre for help.

Find your local centre by visiting  bit.ly/familyinfodirectory

Find us online  www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals

