



Bolton Council

Are you are entitled to a Free School Meal?

There are 2 types of Free School Meals:

Universal Free School Meals – every child from the beginning of Reception until the end of Year 2 is eligible to a meal through a government funded scheme regardless of individual financial circumstances.

If your child is in Reception Y1 and Y2 you can still apply for benefit related Free School Meals as this brings extra funding into your child's school. Registration for Free School Meal Entitlement allows your child's school to claim valuable funding for every child who is awarded Free School Meals – this funding is known as Pupil Premium which your child's school can then allocate as needed.

Free School Meals – please check to find out if you are entitled to income related free school meals, it is really easy to do so and you, your child and your child's school could benefit. Even if your child does not take the meal.

How to apply

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.

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>

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, the Council 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.

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>

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 for 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
- Universal Credit - your earned income must be less than £7,400 a year

Contact Housing Benefits/Free School Meals 01204 331590 for more information.