

Free School Meal eligibility  
How to apply

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The most topical word of 2020 appears to be 'unprecedented', we are all learning that there still can be a first for anything. I can appreciate that right now we are all in uncharted territory and due to Covid-19 your status of employment may have unexpectedly changed. Whilst I appreciate this may be an incredibly difficult time for you all, I wanted you to know there is potential government funding to support your child.

If you are now in a position where the below applies to you, please keep reading because your child may be able to get free school meals if you are currently entitled to any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

You may find it easier to see if you are eligible via the link below:

<https://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=How+to+apply+for+Free+School+Meals&pid=103>

If you are eligible, you will receive £15 per week per child via the government's national voucher scheme.. Please do however be aware that the response may not be immediate as the Borough are trying to cope with an increase of demands.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Miss E Satterthwaite  
PP Champion  
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