

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Research shows that better food in schools is improving what children eat during the school day, and there's evidence of a clear link between what children eat at lunchtime in school, where they eat it and how they focus with their teachers in the afternoon.

From September 2014, **all** children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England will be eligible for free school meals. This includes infant pupils in maintained infant and primary schools, free schools, academies, special schools and pupil referral units.

Free school meals are also available to pupils in years 3 and above whose parents receive certain benefits and register using the form over the page. Please return this form to your child's school if you think you qualify.



Registering for free school meals could raise money for your child's school – Pupil Premium



If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 it is still important to complete this form because registering for free school meals could also raise an extra £1300 (primary schools) or £935 (secondary schools) from central government which can be used in your child's school to raise the attainment of pupils from lower income families and close the gap between them and their peers.

Furthermore, even if you don't want your child to receive a free meal we would still encourage you to register for free school meals so that their school receives as much funding as possible.

To register for Free School Meals, including Pupil Premium, please complete the application form over the page and return it to your child's school as soon as possible to avoid delay.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL & PUPIL PREMIUM APPLICATION FORM

CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS/CARERS RECEIVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND WILL GENERATE PUPIL PREMIUM FOR THEIR SCHOOL:

- ✓ **Income Support (IS)**
 - ✓ **Income-based** (not contribution-based) **Job Seeker's Allowance (IBJSA)**
 - ✓ The **Guarantee** element of the State Pension Credit.
 - ✓ **Income-related employment and support allowance** or
 - ✓ Financially supported by NASS (National Asylum Support Service).
- Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.
- ✓ **Child Tax Credit** except if you meet ANY of the following criteria -
 - i) entitled to working tax credit (regardless of income)
 - ii) have an annual income in excess of £16,190 (Please note that this figure is for April 2014 and that it can change each year).
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches.

Administration for the provision of free school meals is undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council for those pupils attending an education establishment within Buckinghamshire. This form should be completed and returned to your child's school.

1. DETAILS OF PARENT/CARER WITH QUALIFYING BENEFIT – COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS

SURNAME/FAMILY NAME as it appears on your benefit letter:

FORENAME: **TITLE:** **DATE OF BIRTH:** dd/mm/yyyy

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER

OR

NATIONAL ASYLUM SEEKER NUMBER

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ADDRESS

POST CODE

DAYTIME TEL. NO(s)

2. DETAILS OF THE CHILD/CHILDREN REQUIRING FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Surname/Family Name	Forename	Date of Birth	Name of School

3. DECLARATION

I declare that the information given on this form is true and complete and I undertake to inform the school if my entitlement to one of the qualifying benefits is terminated. I understand that I will be liable for any costs incurred in providing free school meals for my child(ren), should I fail to inform the school of the termination of my benefit. I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school lunches and will contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial, and ongoing, entitlement to free school lunches. I understand that the results of any free school lunch eligibility check may also be used to assess my entitlement to receive free travel to school.

I have read and I understand the above declaration.

SIGNATURE _____ (Parent/Guardian) **DATE** _____