

How to apply for free school meals

You can apply for your children to receive free schools meals if you are receiving certain welfare benefits.

All children get free school meals if they are in reception, year 1 or year 2. If you receive any of the benefits below you should still apply so that the school gets extra funding.

This money could go towards things like learning support and after-school activities.

Am I eligible?

You must already be receiving any of the following benefits to apply:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - you must annually take home £7,400 or less in Universal Credit payments. This equals an average of £616.67 per month in net earned income (after deductions).

You are not eligible for free school meals if you receive Working Tax Credit or other support payments that are not mentioned above.



Greenwich

If your child attends a school in another borough you will need to apply to the relevant council or school directly. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Tower Hamlets

Children whose parents live in the borough but who attend schools outside the borough. Parents should apply to the authority where the school is located. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Medway

Does not specify the location of the school and just has a link to applications.

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school-information/354/free-school-meals>. May need to go via Bexley after this process.

Bromley

If your child attends a non-Bromley school, you must apply to the local authority where the school is situated. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Dartford

If your child attends a non-Dartford school, you must apply to the local authority where the school is situated. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

When these applications are completed a notification should be sent to the school for us to update records accordingly but may be worth the parents sending in the email confirmation to us too.

Bexley Application Link

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/free-school-meals/how-apply-free-school-meals/free-school-meals-form>