

# Free school meals

There are two free school meal schemes - universal infant free school meals and income related free school meals.

## **Universal infant free school meals**

If your child attends a state funded infant school and is in reception class, year 1 or year 2 (key stage 1) they are entitled to free school meals regardless of your income. This could save you almost £400 a year for each child you have in key stage 1.

## **How to apply**

We urge those parents who do receive a qualifying benefit to make a formal application as this will allow the school to claim additional funding (pupil premium) for new equipment and resources. You can do this online at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals/>

## **Income related free school meals**

Schools and local authority nurseries

If you live in Liverpool and receive any of the following benefits you can claim free school meals for your school-aged child. This is also applicable to nursery-aged children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school or nursery class:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more the £7,400
- 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 State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and **do not** get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Note: If you are over 18 and still attend school, you can claim for free school meals if you receive any of the first three allowances listed above.

## **How to claim**

The application process below is for Liverpool City Council area residents only. If you live outside of the Liverpool City Council area please contact your own education authority.

The online application form checks whether your child is eligible and gives you an instant answer.

If you already receive free school meals and wish to register another child then please contact the council at <https://liverpool.gov.uk/contact-us/council-tax-support-and-housing-benefit/> instead of completing the form again.

## **How are school meals paid?**

If your claim is successful the school will be notified that your child can have free school meals. Schools will ensure that this information is treated with the strictest confidence and handled sensitively.

## **Change of circumstances**

You must contact Liverpool City Council if your circumstances change. For example, if you no longer receive benefits, move house or change school, as this may affect your right to claim.