



Who Qualifies?

May you qualify for Free School Meals?

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Free School meals (FSM)

As you may be aware, following the Government initiative, all children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Yr 1 & 2) are eligible for a free school meal each day.

We refer to these meals as **'Universal Infant Free School Meals -UIFSMs'** in school. The provision of the **'UIFSM'** will stop when your child leaves Yr 2.

However, there has always been provision of a free school meal to children whose parents are eligible for certain qualifying benefits. These free lunches have always, and will continue to be known as **Free School Meals (FSM)**. Any child on FSM will have a free school lunch for the duration of their school life (as long as the eligibility to the benefit continues) – they will not stop at the end of Year 2. In addition to the provision of free meals, FSM entitlement also generates an additional layer of funding known as **Pupil Premium** funding.

It is very important to school that all **FSM/Pupil Premium** children are identified and not hidden within the **'Universals'**. Funding is allocated based on the Autumn School census in October, but we need to capture any changes to people's circumstances throughout the year.

If your income meets one of the categories below then please complete all sections of the Universal Free School Meals Application Form and either return it to the school office or your local benefit office, this will be then processed in confidence by the Local Authority.

Your child may be eligible to receive **free school meals** if you are entitled to receive one 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 Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- Universal Credit

You can telephone 0300 123 7021 if you are still not sure if you meet the eligibility criteria.