

## Free school meals 2025 - 2026

### Eligibility

The government provides free school meals for all pupils in reception to year 2 who attend state funded primary schools.

The Greater London Authority provided funding to local authorities to extend this entitlement to year groups 3 to 6 in 2025 - 2026. This funding has now been extended until July 2028.

In both cases, children will receive the entitlements automatically, but it is really important for parents on a low income, or who are in receipt of certain benefits, to apply for mean-tested free school meals in order for your child's school to receive extra funding.

### Means-tested free school meals

If eligible for benefit-related free school meals, your child's school will get additional funding through the Pupil Premium - up to £1,455. That's extra money to spend on enrichment activities, teacher development and targeted support for the children that need it most.

Pupils receiving, or whose parents are receiving, one or more of the following benefits can apply:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 (provided you are 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

Children who get any of these benefits directly (instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

Check your eligibility for free school meals; <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>