

Free school meals

You may qualify for free school meals if your child attends a Nottinghamshire County Council School or your child attends a maintained nursery (as long as they are receiving funded early learning education before and after lunch) and you receive one of the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based and Contributions-based JSA and ESA on an equal basis
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – during the initial roll-out of the benefit

Free school milk

The eligibility criteria for free milk entitlement is exactly the same as for FSM. There is no statutory requirement for milk to be provided in schools. Where LAs or schools choose to provide milk, it must be free to children whose parents are in receipt of the same support payments as for FSM.

Universal infant free meals - all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools are now entitled to free school meals.

Register for additional funding for your child's school

It is important that all parents who receive one of the benefits listed above register for free school meals as this will enable your child's school to claim pupil premium allocation. The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise attainment. This additional funding for schools can help to buy new equipment and resources.

In the 2014-2015 financial year schools received:

- £1,300 for each eligible primary-aged pupil
- £935 for each eligible secondary-aged pupil

Children who receive income support or income related employment support allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals (this situation often applies to post-16 pupils in special schools).

Registering for free school meals

Contact the free school meals team by telephoning 01623 433009 or by visiting <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-dinners/free-school-meals/>. The information needed to register includes:

- personal details (including national insurance number and date of birth) for you and your partner
- child's details in full including their date of birth and the school they attend
- If eligible for free school meals and/or milk the start date will normally be within two days of parents contacting us and entitlement being verified. We will also write to confirm the date the child's free school meals and milk will start.

Children will continue to receive free school meals and milk while parents are receiving the qualifying benefit.