



Dear Parent/Carer

Free School Meals

We are writing as a reminder regarding eligibility and claiming for free school meals. Free school meals offer a healthy, wide selection of options for your child at lunch time and can save families approximately £494 per year; the free school meal allowance is currently £2.60 per day.

Do I Qualify?

To qualify for free school meals, you or your partner must be getting one of the following (information taken from the Bolton Council website):

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance Income based
- Employment Support Allowance Income related
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit only – as long as your letter shows you have an of less than £16,190 and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – your earned income must be less than £7,400 a year

What evidence is required and how do I apply?

You need to provide an up to date document showing that you are getting one of the above qualifying benefits.

You don't need to make a claim for a free school meal if you already receive or have applied for housing benefit or council tax support.

If you would like to make a claim this can be done;

- Online at <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>
- Visit the one stop shop with your proof of income
- Phoning 01204 331590

Please be aware that eligibility for free school meals is completely anonymous. The £2.60 allowance is added daily to student's lunch accounts and meals are paid for in the canteen in the same way by all students. If the £2.60 is not spent, any remaining allowance drops off at the end of the day and a new £2.60 is added the following morning; please also note that the free school meal allowance does not appear on your ParentPay account. You are still able to top-up your child's lunch account using ParentPay if you wish.

Yours faithfully

Mrs G Bailey
Business Manager

