

## **Universal Infant Free School Meals and Free School Meals in England**

Your child may be entitled to free school meals or a universal infant free school meal.

All children in the following year groups in a [government-funded school](#) are entitled to a free school meal when in school. **These are known as Universal Infant Free School Meals:**

- Reception class
- year 1
- year 2

**In addition to this, your child may also be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) if you get any 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're 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
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

**Please see the link below for more information:**

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

***No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.***

**We understand that in the current COVID-19 situation your circumstances may have changed and you may now be eligible for Free School Meals.**

We would encourage any parent who thinks that they may be eligible for Free School Meals to apply regardless of whether your child has a school meal or packed lunch when at school. This is not only financially beneficial for you but also to the school in the form of additional funding. Free School meals (FSM) **is in addition** to the Government funded Universal Infant Free School Meals for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2.

**How to apply:**

The link to the page is

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Click [Register](#) to create an account and apply or if you have already registered click [Login](#) to make an online application

**Phone: 0151 511 7188**

**Email: [RutlandHouseSharedAdminTeam@halton.gov.uk](mailto:RutlandHouseSharedAdminTeam@halton.gov.uk)**

You will be asked to provide some personal information (such as name, address) in order to fulfil your request.