

Free School Meals and associated benefits.

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Andrew's we are passionate that our children get the best possible education and start in their lives. With this in mind, I would like to bring your attention to the **benefits of receiving free school meals**; not only does your child receive a hot meal every day of their school life, free of charge, but they'll also qualify for the [Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#). Food vouchers may also be available through the [Household Support Fund](#). Both these initiatives help through the school holidays not only with feeding your child but also with providing stimulating activities.

When you register for free school meals, it activates additional school funding (known as Pupil Premium) which can be used to improve educational facilities, enrich our curriculum, and provide a wider range of extracurricular activities for all students. This additional funding ultimately benefits every child in our community, ensuring that we can offer the best possible educational experience.

Children in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 currently receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, however, this is not linked to income or other criteria and does not come with the benefits listed above. With this in mind, we would encourage every eligible parent to apply as you will receive help over the school holidays and have peace of mind that once your child reaches Year 3, they will continue to receive free school meals.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- 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 guarantee 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

In addition the government has permanently extended free school meal eligibility to children in all households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), subject to maximum income thresholds. These groups include, but may not be limited to children of:

- Zambrano carers
- families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Chen carers
- families holding a [BN\(O\) passport](#)
- spousal visa holders
- work visa holders
- student visa holders
- those with no immigration status

Under the permanent extension of free school meal eligibility to all NRPF groups, the annual household income thresholds for those families able to work are:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with 1 child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with 2 or more children

You can apply on the Plymouth Council website: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

For more information or support with your application please contact Cass Stephens at school: 01752 201660

Or email: c.stephens@staps.org.uk