

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Explained!

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a **Universal Free School Meal** (often referred to as **UFSM**).

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to **Benefit related Free School Meals (FSM)**.

If you are an asylum seeker awaiting a Home Office decision, you may be entitled to **Benefit related Free School Meals under the criteria of No Recourse to Public Funds (FSM)**.

Confusing hey! The difference is that if you are entitled to Benefit related FSM there are other means of support that you can tap into. Once you are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals your child's school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to help and support you through your child's education. The school will also receive extra support to deliver a fully inclusive and accessible education for all our pupils.

You can apply for Free School Meals at any time while your child is at a Hillingdon school.

For example:

If you apply and are entitled to Free School Meals in Reception class, the funding is there to support you for your child's entire time at Primary school. If you become eligible in year 5 then the Pupil Premium funding goes with you to secondary school.

How can Pupil Premium funding help me?

Pupil Premium funding is used at the school's discretion to support children, each situation is assessed individually but examples of the support available are listed below:

- Help with before and after school childcare
- Support with payment for trips if receiving FSM
- Help with school uniform
- Music lessons subsidy
- Before and after school sports and activities
- Additional tuition
- Holiday Clubs
- Counselling support and play therapy

Is my child eligible?

From 1 April 2018, free school meals in Hillingdon maintained and free schools and academies 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 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 £16,190)
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you are eligible for **benefits-related free school meals** in accordance with the above criteria, and your child is also receiving **Universal Infant Free School Meals**, **please still apply**. This will enable your child's school to claim valuable 'pupil premium' funding.

If either parent works within the armed forces or if a child is looked after from care they may also be eligible for benefits. Documentation will need to be provided in these instances.

How do I apply?

You can apply for **Free School Meals** through your child's school office.

You will need to complete a simple form and then await the response.

If you apply for **Benefit related Free School Meals due to no resource to public funds** as an asylum seeker, you will need to show some documents to the school. The school will then complete the application for you.

Schools, you can follow the guidance set out here: [Providing free school meals to families with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/providing-free-school-meals-to-families-with-no-recourse-to-public-funds-nrpf)

If your child comes under any of the categories below you might also be entitled to Pupil Premium support:

- Children of those employed in the Armed Services
- Children adopted from care

If you need more information, please contact your school.