

FSM

Students may qualify for free school meals if they attend a Nottinghamshire County Council School, and the parent/carer receives one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

If your student is entitled to 'free school meals' (as we used to call them), or if you are a low-income family, it is still **crucial** to apply for this. **Your child does not have to have a school meal if you prefer them to have a packed lunch**, but if they are on our Free School Meals register, then they qualify for all sorts of other benefits throughout the year, including free milk, discount on trips and after school clubs and a £20.00 uniform voucher.

When a child is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money, which we can then spend on education and enrichment. This extra money is called the Pupil Premium, and its purpose is to ensure that children from low-income families are not at a financial disadvantage during their education due to home circumstances.

Registering for free school meals

You can register for free school meals online. The information needed to register includes the following:

- Personal details (including national insurance number and date of birth) for the parent/carer
- Students' full details include their date of birth and the school they attend.

If eligible for free school meals, the start date will generally be within two working days of parents contacting us and entitlement being verified. We will also write to confirm when the student's free school meals and milk will start.

Students transferring between Nottinghamshire schools do not need to reapply. Students will continue receiving free school meals and milk while parents receive the qualifying benefit or until the end of transitional protection (31 March 2022).

Parents who cannot apply online should contact us on 0300 500 80 80.