



Are you Eligible to Apply for Free School Meals

The government provides schools with additional funding to support or enhance the learning of pupils who are currently or have been entitled to free school meals within the last six years, or whose parents are in the forces. It's essential that parents/carers apply for free school meals or inform the school if they are in the forces, even if the pupil does not wish to receive a free school meal.

Who qualifies for free school meals?

Free school meals can be awarded if you or your partner are claiming any of the following:

- 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

A child over 16 getting any of these benefits is also eligible to receive free school meals.

How to apply?

If you meet the criteria further details and the application process are available at

www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/>