

Wednesday 8th May 2024

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium - Reception to Year 6

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last year, to help with the cost-of-living crisis, the Mayor of London announced that all primary school children would be entitled to receive a school meal for the academic year 2023/2024, from September 2023 to July 2024, at no cost to their parent or carer. **We are pleased to inform you that the scheme has been extended for another year, from September 2024 to July 2025.**

Children will automatically receive a school meal. However, if you receive one of the benefits listed below, it is important to register for a free school meal. If your child is eligible for 'benefit assessed' free school meals, the school will receive additional funding called 'Pupil Premium'. This extra money can make a real difference to the quality of education the school offers, through improved access to learning, achieving better outcomes and by increasing participation in school opportunities.

Free school meals and pupil premium

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. The school will receive an extra £1,480 (for the 2024/2025 financial year) from the government for every eligible child who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education the school offers.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Children will be eligible for free school meals if their parent or carer receives one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of **no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)**)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (**provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit**) and have an annual gross income of no more than 16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Can my child still bring a packed lunch?

Yes, they can. If you prefer your child to have a packed lunch, they can. However, you should still register because if you are eligible the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways. Please note that a cash alternative is not available for those pupils not taking a free school meal.

Your child may be eligible for free school meal protection up until Year 6 in primary school.

If you receive one of the benefits listed above and qualify, your child's free school meal entitlement will be protected until the end of primary school, even if your circumstances change. Eligibility for free school meals changed on the 1 April 2018, whilst Universal Credit is being rolled out to replace existing benefits. The roll out period is scheduled to end next year, in March 2025. After this date, even if your circumstances have changed, your child will keep their free school meal entitlement until the end of their current phase of education, i.e., primary school.

How do I register?

To register, please complete the attached application form and return to the school office who will scan the form to the Local Authority on your behalf. Or you can scan the form and email it directly to: freeschoolmeals@enfield.gov.uk

If your application is successful, you will be notified within 10 working days of receipt. For more information about the Pupil Premium grant please go to our website, which contains details of how the Pupil Premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

Kind regards,



Nicky Ross
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Woodpecker Hall Academy
North Star Trust Leader of Primary Education