

Why apply for Free School Meals?

By applying for Free School Meals, you are helping us to help your child get the most out of school. The extra funding that we get, we use to support children from low-income families achieve their potential.

Here is a list of some of the ways that we use Pupil Premium funding to help children receiving Free School Meals:

- Subsidising school trips
- Subsidising breakfast club places
- Providing classes with iPads
- Running small groups with children in need of extra support
- Offering counselling and well-being therapy

Steps to applying

1. Check this leaflet to see whether you receive any of the listed benefits.
2. Get your National Insurance number and email address ready.
3. Go to:
<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/section/pupil-benefits>
4. Register your details with Hackney Citizen Portal.
5. Add your child's details on the Portal and then follow the instructions for applying for Free School Meals.
6. Wait to see if you are eligible. The school will be told automatically if you are.

Remember, we are here to help you with your application.



Free School Meals

Parent Guide

What are Free School Meals?

All children starting school in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 get a free meal at school regardless of income. This means they get a delicious hot meal at no cost. **However, if you are on a low income, you should still apply so that we can claim the Pupil Premium.**

What is Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is extra money paid direct to schools for each child who is eligible for free school meals due to the household being on a low income. It is used to support your child's education.

If your child is eligible for free school meals and you apply for it, the school receives £1,345 extra funding to support their education.

“We are committed to giving a great educational experience to prepare every pupil for the future.”



Why apply for Free School Meals?

You are eligible if you receive any of the benefits below:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [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](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400