

## **Free School Meals**



Schools should provide free school meals to pupils of all ages that meet the criteria.

Free school meals 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 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

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will automatically be entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). However, if you do meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria, then it is advised you apply to receive additional benefits.

The **Holiday and Food (HAF) programme** is for children aged 4 to 16 in Reception to Year 11 in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. (See HAF tab for more information).

**Pupil Premium** is extra funding paid directly to schools for each pupil who is eligible for free school meals. It can help to fund valuable teaching and learning support to improve pupil's education.

If you think you are eligible for Free School Meals, please apply online at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

**As your child attends a Warwickshire School, you should apply through Warwickshire County Council, not your local council.**

Need help with your application?

If you have any questions or need support with applying for free school meals, please contact the team by emailing [freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk) or calling 01926 359189.