

How to register for free school meals?

You can complete a simple electronic form online at:

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/education_grants/free_school_meals.aspx

Alternatively you can request a paper copy from either of the school offices. We are happy to support parents to complete their free school meals application.

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions about free school meals, please speak to Mrs Grove, Mrs Lawrence (family support worker based at Harris Way) or Mrs Urwin (family support worker based at Bedford Road).

External Sources

The government's website has information about who is eligible for free school meals, as well as information on how to apply.

Apply for free school meals, GOV.UK
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

You can also read further information about the pupil premium at the following link.

Wootton Lower School



Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

Which pupils qualify for free school meals?

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on

Universal Credit

In addition, schools must provide free school meals to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2. This is known as universal infant free school meals.

What are the benefits of claiming free school meals?

School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and they can also save you time and money.

Claiming free school meals also helps the school. We get extra funding, known as the 'pupil premium', for every eligible pupil who is registered.

What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium grant is funding provided to schools to help all pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation.

Pupils may be eligible if they:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point since May 2010
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How is the pupil premium funding used?

The pupil premium is not used to pay for school meals. Schools use the funding to improve the attainment of pupils who are eligible.

You will find more information about how we use our pupil premium funding on our website.

How can I ensure the school gets the funding?

The more eligible pupils that are registered for free school meals, the more funding the school receives.

Registering does not mean your child has to take up free school meals if they don't want to.

You should still register for free school meals even if:

- Your child already receives universal infant free school meals