

# Free School Meals – Information for Parents

There are two types of Free School Meals that educational establishments are asked to provide:

- Universal Infant Free School Meals (UFSM)
- Free School Meals where parents are in receipt of benefits and qualify for financial support.

When schools are open as educational establishments, schools must offer Universal Infant Free School Meals to every pupil in:

- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2

Schools are also expected to provide a free school meal for those children in all year groups where parents are eligible for a free school meal due to the fact that they are in receipt of benefits. These benefits may include:

- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - with a household income of less than a specified figure (changes annually)

Whilst schools are providing childcare during the school closure for COVID-19, the Government have instructed schools to provide a free school meal or free school meal voucher for those families on **benefits only**.

Once the schools are re-opened as educational establishments and not childcare facilities, the provision for Universal Infant Free School Meals will resume.