

Guidance Notes

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant 2018

Who can get free school meals?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit providing you have net earnings of less than £7,400 a year (£616.67 a month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC)

Changes to the rules and protected free school meals entitlement

- From 1 April 2018 free school meals regulations include a net earnings threshold of £7,400.00 for UC claimants
- Any pupil eligible for free schools meals up to and including the 31 March 2018 will keep their free school meal eligibility until 31 March 2022 even if their financial circumstances change
- Any pupil who becomes eligible from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022 will keep their eligibility until 31 March 2022 (this is known as the UC rollout period)
- Once the rollout of UC is completed any pupil losing free school meal entitlement is protected until the end of their current phase of primary or secondary education
- Pupils keep their eligibility between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2022 even if the applicant's financial circumstances change
- Protection applies to the child getting free school meals - not the family. If a sibling is not entitled to free school meals based on the eligibility criteria, protection does not apply (this is also the case where a child moves to live with another parent or family member)

If your child goes to school outside of Haringey, you should apply to the borough the school is in.

Free school meals for infants and older children

Free school meals for infants

Children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who attend a state-funded school are entitled to free

school meals (whether their families get qualifying benefits or not) but you should still make an application because if you meet the eligibility criteria the school qualifies for additional Government funding.

It may also mean your child's free school meals can continue under the protection rules once they reach Year 3.

Free school meals for older children

Children aged 16-18 who attend a further education funded institution (for example schools with a sixth form, academies, free schools etc.) may also apply for free school meals.

Clothing grant

If you are eligible for free school meals and your child is transferring to secondary school in September 2018, you can also apply for a one-off clothing grant of £60.

The grant must only be used to buy school clothes or shoes for your child (we may ask to see receipts as proof of purchase). The closing date for applications for children entering year 7 in September 2018 is 31 March 2019.

To qualify for a grant you must live in Haringey and your child's date of birth must be between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007.

You will need to provide proof of your relationship to the child and the child's date of birth.

How to apply

If you cannot apply online you will need to download, print and complete a Free School Meals and School Clothing Grant Application Form.

If this is your first application you will need to provide proof of your relationship to the child and the child's date of birth.

Returning your form

Return your completed form to your nearest Customer Service Centre (South Tottenham Customer Service Centre at Apex House, 820 Seven Sisters Road, London N15 5PQ or Wood Green Customer Service Centre at 48 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 7TY) who will process your application while you wait or you can post it to:

- Shared Service Centre | Benefits
PO Box 10505
Wood Green
N22 7WJ

Proof

We need you to provide proof of your relationship to the child and the child's date of birth, for example:

- a Child Benefit letter showing your name, the child's name and the child's date of birth
- a long birth certificate showing your name, the child's name and the child's date of birth

If you do not have suitable proof you need to contact us to explain your circumstances and let us know what proof you have.

Important notes

- You must normally reapply for free school meals every year but will not need to do so until the protection period ends on 31 March 2022. We will write to you and ask you to reapply before the protection period ends.
- If your child moves to another school you must tell us immediately.
- If you receive free school meals based on the protection rules a new school may ask you to provide evidence of your entitlement to free school meals from the previous school for free school meals to continue.
- If your child attends a state nursery school and you wish to apply for free school meals you will need to submit a letter from the nursery to confirm they attend before and after lunchtime.
- Children who receive Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance in their own right can apply for free school meals.
- If you are a foster carer or kinship carer money for school meals has been included in your allowance.

Further information

Further information about free school meals is available on www.gov.uk .

Contact details

- Shared Service Centre | Benefits
P O Box 10505
Wood Green
N22 7WJ
- Tel 020 8489 1000
- Email fsm@haringey.gov.uk - we accept signed and scanned applications by email.