



## LOCKS HEATH INFANT SCHOOL

Warsash Road  
Locks Heath  
Southampton  
SO31 9NZ

Headteacher: Rick Jump BA (Hons) QTS; NPQH

Telephone: (01489) 584180

April 2020

### Free School Meal Criteria

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since September 2014 all infant school children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. However for some children our school will be able to claim Pupil Premium funding which is used to fund additional adult support in class and to provide other financial support, e.g. for school trips. Eligible children are also entitled to free school milk that will be offered at lunchtimes.

#### Who qualifies for free school meals?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.

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

#### I don't currently claim free school meals – what does this mean for me?

If you think you might qualify for free school meals, please submit a claim through the Hampshire Website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals>

The information you provide will be used to check if you receive a qualifying benefit and, if you are on Universal Credit, that your earnings are not too high. If you claim Universal Credit, your earnings will be assessed through the Universal Credit assessment periods.

If you are eligible, your school will be notified. Your child will receive free school meals and the school will receive extra funding, even if your child chooses not to access the free daily meal. The money can also be used to fund additional adult support in class and to provide other financial support, e.g. for school trips. Eligible children are also entitled to free school milk that will be offered at lunchtimes.

## I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. infant, primary or secondary.

## How do I check my eligibility and register?

Using the link above will take you to the page shown in the picture below. Please follow to see how the process works.

Free school meals for pupils up to 16 years old

Eligibility for free school meals depends on the circumstances of the parents or carers

**School uniform grants**

- Hampshire County Council is unable to provide money to help with your child's uniform
- Speak to your child's school if you are having difficulties buying the right uniform. They may be able to help.

**1 Free school meals criteria**

A child is eligible for free school meals if their parent or carer receives one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- 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)

**2 Check eligibility for pupil premium and free school meals**

To check your child's eligibility for pupil premium or continued free school meals (from Key Stage 2), [use the online checking facility](#)

To complete a check you need the following information for yourself or the person you are checking on behalf of:

- your own name, date of birth, and contact details
- National Insurance number or National Asylum Seekers number
- child's name and date of birth
- school your child is attending or will attend

Please contact your school or college if you have any queries about free school meals.

[Check to see if you are eligible for free meals >](#)

Find us on [Click here](#)

It will take you to this page, where you will then need to follow the guidance.

Hampshire County Council

You will need to make a new application for each child but your information will be remembered to help you to complete multiple applications quickly.

You may apply for eligibility on behalf of a parent/carer if you have permission to do so and their details.

**New application**

Use this button if you are making a new claim for Free School Meals.

[Start](#)

**Previous application**

Use this button if you have a reference number and wish to continue with this (check eligibility status, un-apply, re-apply). You will need your application reference and your date of birth.

Application Reference and Date of birth (DDMMYYYY)

[Submit](#)

Go to Hampshire County Council's web site

© 2012 2018 Software by Data Analytics Limited | SDA Privacy policy | Hampshire County Council

To complete a check you will need the following information for yourself, or the person you are checking on behalf of:

- Name, home address and email address
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service reference number
- Child or student's name, date of birth and school/college
- School your child is attending or will attend

Where can I get more information?

**If you believe you are eligible, it is important you do this as soon as possible for the school to benefit, therefore helping your child's education.**

This is important funding for the school that will benefit your child; please let the school office know if you require any further information or assistance; for example, you can use a secure and private school computer to check your eligibility.

Mrs A Keelor

Senior Admin Officer

Locks Heath Infant School