



LOCKS HEATH INFANT SCHOOL

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Locks Heath
Southampton
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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.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

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.

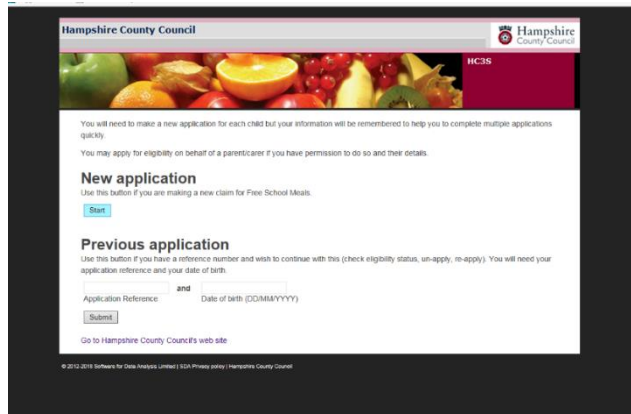
I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

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?

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

The image is a screenshot of a web page from Hampshire County Council. At the top, there is a header with the council's name and logo. Below the header is a banner image of various fruits. The main content area is white with a dark border. It contains two sections: 'New application' and 'Previous application'. The 'New application' section has a 'Start' button. The 'Previous application' section has a 'Submit' button and a form with fields for 'Application Reference' and 'Date of birth (DDMMYYYY)'. At the bottom, there is a small copyright notice: '© 2012-2017 Software by Data Access Limited | 100% 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 and normally takes no more than ten minutes:

- 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