



## **Free School Meals and Milk**

### **Claiming for Free School Meals**

We want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming their free school meals, and we want to make it as easy as possible for parents.

Nottinghamshire County Council use the Department for Education's free school meals eligibility checker system to determine eligibility.

You will only have to provide your National Insurance Number, or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number, Name, Surname and Date of Birth.

### **Qualifying Benefits**

These are the benefits that will help towards your claim;

Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).

Free school meals are available to pupils who are in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the qualifying benefits;

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16190
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

### **Registering for Free School Meals**

The information needed to register include:

- Personal details (including national insurance number and date of birth) for the parent/carer
- Child's details in full, including their date of birth and the school they attend.



VAT Reg: 142337141    Company Number: 8195720  
The Florence Nightingale Academy  
Chewton Street, Eastwood, Nottingham, NG16 3HB  
Tel: 01773 713452  
Email: [office@theflorence.academy](mailto:office@theflorence.academy)  
Website: [theflorence.academy](http://theflorence.academy)  
Headteacher: Mrs L Baxter



If eligible for free school meals and / or milk, that start date will normally be within two working days of the parents contacting NCC and entitlement being verified. Children attending maintained nurseries will also qualify for a free school meal as long as they are receiving funded early years education before and after lunch.

Children transferring between schools that use Nottinghamshire County Council's FSM service do not need to re-apply. For children attending a school that does not use this service (i.e any school not in the Nottinghamshire area), you should contact the school directly for information about how to apply for free school meals.

If parents are unable to apply on-line they should contact the department on 0300 500 8080.

To apply on-line go to:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

If you are eligible for Free School Meals that are linked to Income and Benefits, the school will be advised by Nottinghamshire County Council and given the date when the eligibility begins. If you have ordered school meals before that date, they will still have to be paid for in the normal way.

The school will also be entitled to claim a Pupil Premium Grant, which will provide funds to help towards your child's education and let us assist you in paying for school trips and also contribute towards the cost of School Uniform. At the time of writing, once a Pupil Premium Grant is established, it will continue for six consecutive years irrespective of whether you continue to be eligible for Free School Meals.

Please don't confuse this with Universal Infant Free School Meals, which are meals that are Government Funded for all children in the Reception Classes, Year 1 and year 2. This doesn't help you with any other expenses and you will have to pay for meals when the child/ren move into year 3.

### Free Milk Scheme

Free milk is available for;

- All children under the age of 5 who are in school or day-care.
- Children receiving free school meals. The eligibility criteria for free Milk entitlement is exactly the same as for free school meals.

Please refer to the 'Cool Milk' website to order your milk. You will have to refer to your eligibility status to receive free milk. [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

If you have any further questions, please speak to the staff in the School office.



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