



Free School Meals and Milk – are you entitled?

We want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming their Free School Meals (FSM), and we at The Florence and the team at Nottinghamshire County Council want to make it as easy as possible for parents.

Even if you have a child in reception and KS1 and they receive funded meals (Universal*), if you feel you meet the school meals eligibility criteria, it is important you still apply.

**Universal Free School Meals – Government funded free school meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.*

Once your child is registered as FSM, they become part of Pupil Premium and this will unlock extra funding for your child. This means any educational activity incurring a cost, both to the school and/or you, can be reduced for your child.

Parents may apply for free school meals in a number of ways:

- Apply online <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals-free-school-meals-and-milk>
- Telephone the FSM team on 0300 500 8080, and, if successful, the process will be completed by the end of the call. You will need ready your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number, your surname and date of birth.
- You may also request that a new family member is added to an existing claim.

Free School Meals Eligibility Criteria

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

- 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)
- 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 £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

School information regarding children who are registered as FSM is kept confidential. Here at The Florence, children are served meals using the same equal process as everybody else and are not identifiable.

Children moving to / from Nottinghamshire schools

Children moving to a Nottinghamshire school, who are covered by transitional protection, will still need to apply to NCC to ensure that their FSM eligibility is continued. Parents may be required to provide evidence of their transitional protection. For children leaving a Nottinghamshire school who are eligible, NCC will indicate in the stop letter to parents that their entitlement is covered by transitional protection.

Free Milk

The eligibility criteria for free milk entitlement is exactly the same as for Free School Meals (FSM). Where Local Authorities (Las) or schools provide milk, it must be free to children whose parents are in receipt of the same support payments as for FSM.

Free milk is provided for children up to and including age 4. If your child starts a school at this age, you will need to notify the school that you would like to be registered and your child receive milk.

If you aren't eligible via the Council for free school meals / milk, your child can still receive milk at school, this is registered for by the parent/carer direct with Cool Milk and paid for online. The school will then receive notification from Cool Milk you have registered your child and their milk will be delivered to the school.