

FREE SCHOOL MEAL (FSM) APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for FSMs is now via an online portal - [Free School Meal Application Portal](#)

Once you have accessed this portal, you should be on a screen that looks like the below:

The screenshot shows a webpage titled "Free school meals" with a teal header. The main content area is titled "Free School Meals (FSM)" and includes a list of qualifying benefits. To the right, there are two sidebars: "Related Pages" with links to various support pages, and "Related items" with a "News" link. At the bottom left, there is a teal button labeled "Eligibility Checker" with a right-pointing arrow. The page also features decorative gear icons in the bottom right corner of the sidebars.

Free school meals

Free School Meals (FSM)

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- 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 income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of the most recent assessment periods (not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also qualify for the **Holiday Activity and Food Programme**. Food vouchers may also be available through [Food Vouchers | Food Vouchers | Stoke-on-Trent](#). For information about other support, visit the [Household Support Fund](#).

If you receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above, or if you want to check eligibility as a family with no recourse to public funds, please complete our FSM Eligibility Checker below. Children confirmed as eligible for FSM will help their school to receive extra funding.

You can check your eligibility online here using the button below:

[Eligibility Checker](#)

Related Pages

- [Appeal against a housing benefit decision](#)
- [Apply for council tax support](#)
- [Apply for housing benefit](#)
- [Discretionary housing payments](#)
- [Healthy Start](#)
- [Local housing allowance](#)
- [Tell us about a change in your situation](#)
- [Universal Credit](#)

Related items

- [News](#)

You will need to use the eligibility checker button in order to apply for FSM going forward. You will need to register for an account if you do not already have one. Once you have made your application, you will then will receive an instant notification to confirm if your child is eligible for a free school meal rather than waiting for the Local Authority to respond. This information will be passed to the school so that arrangements can then be made at school.

Please note: this only applies to NEW applications. If your child is already in receipt of FSM you DO NOT need to reapply using the portal.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Charlotte Slattery, Deputy Headteacher