



HEADTEACHER: CHARLOTTE SLATTERY
LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

CB/hr/Y7-13/FSM
3rd September 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM)

The number of children who are registered for free school meals (FSM) affects our school in a very important way. Our school receives extra money in our budget for every child registered for free school meals entitlement, not just for the meals, but also for pupil premium funding.

We use pupil premium funding in school in a variety of ways: subsidising school visits, music lessons, uniform, bus passes, textbooks at KS4 or subject consumables. This is not an exhaustive list, but an indication of how we can further support your child financially, if pupil premium funding is allocated.

The greater the number of children registered for FSM, the more extra money our budget receives. There is no stigma attached to receiving free school meals, and even if you qualify, your child does not have to have school meals if you prefer alternative lunch arrangements. You may be entitled if you are in receipt of:

- 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 that £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of the most recent assessment periods (not including any benefits you get).

Please consider completing the application if you feel you may be entitled as it can both support your child and also the school. A link to the Stoke-on-Trent Council portal/eligibility checker for applications can be found below and the page should look like the image on the reverse of this letter:

https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20019/benefits/136/free_school_meals

Telephone: 01782 848008, email:sjcollege@stjosephsmail.com www.stjosephstrentvale.com

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Registration Number: 07490390. Registered office: London Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5NT. VAT Registration number:113707834

Please note: this only applies to NEW applications. If your child is in Year 8 – Year 13 and is already in receipt of FSM, you do NOT need to reapply using the portal.

If your child is in Year 7 or Year 12 and has received FSM in their previous school, please submit a new application. This will ensure that all information is passed to us by the local authority and new students can have access to the FSM that they are entitled to as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C M Banner
Assistant Headteacher

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

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