

## Free School Meals Explained!

All Foundation Stage 2 , Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal (often referred to as UFSM – Universal Free school Meals) and

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

The difference is that if you are entitled to FSM there are other means of support that we can tap into. Once you are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals our school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to help and support your child's education.

You can apply for Free School Meals at any time while your child is at St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy.

For example:

If you apply and are entitled to Free School Meals in EYFS2 the funding is there to support them for their entire time at St. Joseph's. If you become eligible in year 5 then the Pupil Premium funding goes with you to secondary school.

### How can Pupil Premium funding help me?

Pupil Premium funding is used at the school's discretion to support children, each situation is assessed individually but examples of the support available are listed below:

Help with before and after school childcare

Before and after school sports and activities

Support with payment for trips if receiving FSM

Additional tuition

Help with school uniform

Counselling support and play therapy

Educational Resources

### Is my child eligible?

- For your child to qualify for free school meals, you must get one of the following benefits:
- Universal Credit and your household income after tax is less than £7,400 per year (not including any benefits you get)
- Child Tax Credit, as long as you are not getting Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of less than £16,190
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- The guarantee part of Pension Credit
- Asylum seeker support.

From 19 April 2022, children whose families have No Recourse to Public Funds can get Free School Meals if their annual household income is:

Less than £22,700 for families outside London with one child

Less than £31,200 for families in London with one child

Less than £26,300 for families outside London with two or more children

Less than £34,800 for families in London with two or more children

Families who were already getting free school meals on 31 March 2019 can carry on getting them until 31 December 2023, even if the household's income changes.

**If you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals in accordance with the above criteria, and your child is also receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals, please still apply. This will enable Our School to claim valuable 'pupil premium' funding.**

If either parent works within the armed forces or if a child is looked after from care they may also be eligible for benefits. Documentation will need to be provided in these instances.

#### **How do I apply?**

You can apply for Free School Meals online via Leicester City Council. You will need to complete a simple form and then await the response. Use this link to find out more and apply.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/free-school-meals/>