

Could Your Child Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

If you think your child may be entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals, we strongly encourage you to apply.

From the 2026/27 academic year, children from households receiving Universal Credit can qualify for free school meals regardless of household income. Children may also qualify where a parent or carer receives certain other benefits, including:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, subject to the relevant eligibility criteria
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on

Applications are made directly through Leicester City Council and only take a few minutes to complete.

Apply online:

<https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk/>

If you have previously applied and were told that your child was not eligible, Leicester City Council advises families to **reapply**, as the eligibility rules have changed for 2026/27.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically.