

## Free School Meals: Who is eligible? How Can I apply?

If you have a child attending a Sheffield school or maintained nursery, you may be entitled to free school meals if you receive any of these benefits:

- 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
- income related Employment Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you are over 18 and still attend school your free school meals will continue. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact Sheffield City Council.

### Apply for free school meals

You can apply by:

1. **Completing an online application**  
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/form/schools-and-childcare/free-school-meals-start>
2. **Asking school to apply on your behalf**  
Call 0114 2461156 – extension 1112
3. **Contacting Sheffield City Council**  
Call 0114 273 4567 - option 4 then option 1

*Parents, carers, schools or professionals can use the online application. You can apply online for up to five children.*

### What you need to apply

- The details of each child to be claimed for including their date of birth
- Each child's school year group
- Parent or carer's details including date of birth, address, phone number and email address
- Parent or carer's National Insurance (NI) number or National Asylum Seeking Service (NASS) number

**[Apply for free school meals](#)** (click to apply)

## **Next steps after you've applied**

If your claim is successful, school will be notified that your child can have free school meals. We will ensure that this information is treated with the strictest confidence and handled sensitively.

## **What happens at school?**

Each day £2.10 will be automatically added to your child's account. No differentiation is made between FSM and non-FSM account holders when buying food. Please note that £2.10 is the total amount available and so students choosing to spend all of their money at break will not then have additional funds added at lunchtime. Accounts can be topped up with money should parents/carers wish to do so.

## **Support**

If you are in need of additional support, please reach out. We are here to help and to listen.