

Pupil Premium

If your child is eligible for free school meals, it's worth registering them even if they're not going to have the school lunch.

This is because schools receive a 'pupil premium' payment (up to £1,300) for each eligible child. They can spend this on resources which will benefit your child's education.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

From September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free meal at lunchtime.

This is in addition to the existing free school meals scheme for households who receive the qualifying benefits.

If your child is in this age group and is entitled to free school meals because you receive one of the qualifying benefits we still need you to apply for these. This will help out your child's school and will mean that they will continue to receive free school meals when they move into Year 3.

Further information on how to register for the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme are available from your child's school.

6 reasons why school meals are a good choice

- leads to positive improvements in health and academic attainment
- helps families with the cost of living
- provides up to 3 of your child's 5 a day portions of fruit and vegetables
- helps children learn to communicate and socially interact with each other
- aids concentration in lessons
- is a great way to create an interest in food, as well as introduce new foods to your child

Contact details

Phone: **0161 253 5858**

Visit our website at:

www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

E-mail us at:

freeschoolmeals@bury.gov.uk

Customer Support &

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Free School Meals

Eligibility

Bury Council provides free school meals for families who live in the Bury area, even if your children go to school outside the borough.

If your child goes to a school in the Bury area but you live outside the borough you will need to contact the council where you live to apply for free school meals.

Free school meals are available for:

- school pupils aged between 5 and 16;
- 6th form students at St Monica's RC High School or Elms Bank Specialist Arts College.

We can also get free school meals for younger children who attend a school nursery providing they are receiving education before and after lunchtime.

Free school meals are not available for children who go to independent or private schools, or voluntary early years providers.

To qualify you, or your partner, need to be in receipt of one of the qualifying incomes.

Qualifying incomes for free school meals

- **Income Support**
- Income based **Job Seekers Allowance**
- Income related **Employment Support Allowance**
- **Child Tax Credit** with an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of **State Pension Credit**
- **Universal Credit** (during the initial roll out of this benefit)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying income. However you can also get free school meals, if you are entitled to a Working Tax Credit 'run-on' payment for four weeks after stopping work or reducing the number of hours you work to less than 16 a week.

Children who receive income support or income based jobseeker's allowance in their own right are also entitled to free school meals.

How to Apply

Claims for free school meals should be made by the person who is responsible for the child. Normally this means that the child lives with you and you receive child benefit for them.

You only need to make one claim per household even if your children go to different schools.

The easiest way to make a claim is by phone on:

0161 253 5858

We are open Monday to Friday 8:45am to 5:00pm

There are no forms to fill in, and no waiting in a queue at council offices.

We will check the information you give us with what we already hold. In most cases we will be able to deal with your claim whilst you are on the phone, and we will send an e-mail to your child's school straightaway.

When your claim is up and running you won't need to reclaim every year. However we will need you to let us know if your circumstances change, for example if you stop getting the qualifying benefit, if you move house, or if your child moves school.