



Free School Meals and Universal Free School Meals

In September 2014 Universal Free School Meals were introduced, it is important for us to help clarify that there are now two types of Free School Meal.

1. Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM)

This is a free school meal for all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 regardless of income or receipt of benefits. There is no need to fill in any paperwork or claim forms to receive this. All children in these year groups will automatically get free meals.

2. Free School Meals

This is the free meal that parents can claim for their child when they are in receipt of certain benefits and have a joint family income under £16,190. This type of income-related Free School Meal is available to parents of ALL school children, whatever the age of their child.

Some parents who would previously have claimed this kind of free school meal will now get free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, as their children are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THESE PARENTS IN PARTICULAR EITHER CONTINUE TO CLAIM OR COMPLETE A NEW CLAIM even though they may get a free meal anyway as part of the UIFSM programme. If you have never claimed Free School Meals before but believe you would be entitled to do so, we would encourage you to take the time to complete a claim form or come into school and ask about how to apply.

Every child that registers for Free School Meals could generate an extra funds valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. All money that comes into school this way (which is referred to as Pupil Premium Funding) goes straight to support for those children that need it – **but school will not receive this money unless parents claim it.**

Please note: If your child is entitled to either type of free meal, you do still need to let the office know if your child swaps from school meals to packed lunches from home, or vice versa. You are free to change the type of meal your child has at any time, but you must let the school office know – by filling in a form provided by the office – with at least a week's notice.

Unless we have accurate information about which children are having school dinners each day the kitchen cannot make the correct amount of meals and this can lead to either wastage or insufficient food. Please make sure the information we have about your child's dinner arrangements is up to date.

If you are unsure about the information we have, or any aspect of dinner arrangements please just come into the office and ask, and we will be happy to help you.

Visit www.stockport.gov.uk/benefits to make a free school meals application or email any questions to _benefitsfsm@stockport.gov.uk.

