



Children and Adult's Services

Email: schoolfood@southwark.gov.uk

Ref: FHSSM

Date 17th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apply for free healthy secondary school meals now if your child is eligible

We're pleased to let you know that Southwark Council will be providing free healthy secondary school meals for many secondary school pupils this academic year 2023/24. This is to help families through the cost-of-living crisis that we know is still affecting many residents.

We are grateful to The Mayor of London who is funding free primary school meals across London. Southwark Council has already provided free healthy school meals to all primary pupils since 2013, and so the additional funding from the London Mayor will now enable us to expand our offer to secondary school pupils:

- from families who get Universal Credit
- and who are not currently eligible for government benefits related free school meals (FSM) if their household income is more than £7,400 per year.

Spa School invites you to apply, if your household is eligible. You can apply by completing the link for the form which can be found on our website <https://spa-education.org/spa-school-camberwell/parents-c/useful-information>

If you need help Harriet will also be able to help you.

You can apply for free healthy secondary school meals through school by completing the application form.

As part of the application, you need to show that your household gets, or has recently applied for Universal Credit.

Applying for and getting Southwark free healthy secondary school meals **will not** affect any government benefits you get or are entitled to.

The information below provides details about the scheme. If you have any other questions or concerns, contact Harriet on 0203 434 5210.

You can find out more about the scheme at: www.southwark.gov.uk/secondary-meals.

Best wishes,



Steph Lea
Executive Headteacher

Attachment 1

About free healthy secondary school meals

Question	Answer
How does the scheme work in school?	Your child will have a school dinner as normal.
Will my child be identified as getting of free healthy secondary school meals?	No. None of our pupils pay for their meals in the dining room.
When will my child start to get a free meal?	We expect the meals will start after October half term.
If my child already gets government benefits related free school meals (FSM), do I need to apply for this Southwark Council scheme too?	No. But do apply if your eligibility for government benefits related free school meals changes in the future.
My child doesn't live in Southwark but does go to a Southwark school, can I apply for this Southwark Council scheme?	Yes.
Are Year 7 to Year 13 students included?	Yes.
Can my child use this allowance for packed lunches?	No, the allowance can only be used for food provided by school at lunchtime.
What evidence of my household getting Universal Credit will I have to provide?	You'll need to provide the school with <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one of recent bank statement with Universal Credit deposit evidence• screenshot of current Universal Credit portal account• letter confirming family are supported by the Council due to NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds)
How often will I need to give evidence that my household gets Universal Credit?	Once per academic year.
Will my child receive meal vouchers during the school holidays?	No.