



Free School Meals

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Government is giving money to all schools to help students from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called the 'Pupil Premium'. We now receive this additional funding for each pupil on our roll registered as eligible for free school meals (FSM). This is currently £955 per student. We are using this money to help our students achieve the best possible grades in their GCSE examinations. Being eligible for a FSM clearly has a benefit to the student-namely, a free high quality meal. This saves parents/carers over £400 per year. Another benefit to the student is help with the costs of school trips.

We therefore strongly encourage eligible parents/carers to apply for this status. No one will know who has registered and it will not affect any other benefits being claimed. The eligibility criteria for free school meals have been changed. This letter explains the changes and how they might affect you.

What are the new eligibility criteria?

You can register your son/daughter for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on'-the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Pupils can also register for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

I don't currently claim free school meals-what does this mean for me?

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, submit an application form. The information you provide will be used to check if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and, if you are on Universal Credit, that your earnings do not exceed the threshold. If you claim Universal Credit, your earnings will be assessed from up to three of your last Universal Credit assessment periods. If you are eligible, we will be notified. Your son/daughter will receive free school meals and we will receive extra funding.

I am currently claiming free school meals-what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you are currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your son/daughter will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your son/daughter will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education (i.e. primary or secondary).



King Charles I School

Supporting Successful Futures

Applications are made to Babcock Prime Education Services using the attached application form or the online [Free School Meals Application Form](#).

Further information can be found by visiting <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/school-information/school-free-meals.aspx> or by contacting the Free School Meals Team on 01905 678154 or at primefreeschoolmeals@babcockinternational.com or you can also visit the free school meal website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

Jess Bushell (chief operating officer) will be more than happy to help any eligible parents/carers apply and she can be contacted at school.

Yours sincerely

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Associate Headteacher

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