

IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



If your child is eligible for free school meals it means they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals without the bills and the fuss of making packed lunches. Many children at our school are already eating free school meals, and your child may be able to have them too. School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential.

If you were planning to pay for your child to have school meals or are already doing so, you could save around £400 per year if your child qualifies for free school meals.

Students claiming Free School Meals receive a daily allowance of £2.32. Over a school year that means £418 is available for Free School Meal students to spend on food and drink. Thanks to the cashless catering system at West Exe School, a child claiming Free School Meals is treated the same as other students and cannot be identified. Their allowance gets added to their account each morning and any unspent allowance removed after lunch. In addition, the school receives extra funding via the 'Pupil Premium' allocation for Free School Meals students, which helps us subsidise the cost of equipment, uniform and educational visits.

How do I find out?

Parents/carers who receive any of the following benefits are entitled to Free School Meals:

- *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 (IS).*
- *Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBSJA).*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).*
- *The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).*
- *Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right can also get free school meals.*



Parents/Carers applying for free school meals will, in most cases, no longer need to provide paper proof of qualifying benefit. Children who get any of the above benefits in their own right (ie they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or carer) can also get free school meals.

What do I do next?

If you want to apply for Free School Meals you can

- Apply through the [Citizen Portal](#) – this is the quickest and easiest route
- Phone Devon County Council, who check eligibility, on **0345 155 1019**
- If you have any questions or want help with your application please call **0345 155 1019**.