



Free School Meals and The Pupil Premium



Free school meals and the Pupil Premium

Currently, pupils in Years 1 and 2 as well as Reception children all receive free school meals, these are paid by government funding. This provision is called Universal Free School Meals or UFSM.

In addition to this funding, parents in low-income families or those that are unemployed can also apply for Pupil Premium funding so that their children can receive free school meals from Year 3 onwards.

How free school meals can help you and your family

Some of the advantages of being eligible for the Pupil Premium are:

- From year 3 onwards, your child can continue to get a free, healthy meal at lunchtime every day, saving you more than £450 per year.
- Free places on a range of holiday clubs and activities through the Portsmouth Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)
<https://www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey>
- In previous years, families have been given supermarket vouchers for the summer and Christmas holidays. Families have also been eligible for a free family pass to the Historic Dockyard.

Are you eligible?

You **can** register your child for Free School Meals if you receive **any** of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit only, provided your annual household income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190. Anyone entitled to Working Tax Credits not entitled to free meals regardless of income
- Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, if your earned income was £616.67 or less in your last monthly assessment period, or less than an average of £616.67 a month over the last 2 or 3 monthly assessment periods.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

The Pupil Premium

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best at school. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

If you qualify for free school meals, your child will be eligible for additional help and support through the Pupil Premium for the next six years. The Pupil Premium is used to fund additional adults such as teachers, teaching assistants and ELSAs to diminish the differences in attainment between children from low-income families and their peers. If you are registered for Pupil Premium you may also get help with the cost of day trips and residential trips.

The school receives £1,480 of additional funding for each child who is eligible for free school meals. **This additional funding helps us to make a real difference for the children in our school.** Your child does not have to use the free school meal every day. They can still bring a packed lunch on the days that they prefer.

Further information about how this funding is used and the difference that it makes is available on our websites.

How to apply

Registering is really quick and easy – you can apply online at <https://portsmouth.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/> and get an immediate answer. Alternatively, you can scan the QR Code below:



If you are eligible, your child's school will be notified. We will then arrange for your child's meal and other benefits to start.

If you have any problems with applying for this support, please contact the Free School Meal Team on 02392 834092 or email freeschoolmeal@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Thank you in advance for your help and support.