

# Free School Meals

This document can be made available in a range of languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and other accessible formats. Please e-mail [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk) or call 01225 394317

## Benefit Related Free School Meals

Since September 2014, all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in State funded schools in England qualify for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

Please register **all** Primary and Secondary aged pupils for Benefit Related Free School Meals if you are in receipt of qualifying benefits as registration will attract additional funding for your child's school for Pupil Premium (£1,480 per Primary pupil and £1050 per Secondary pupil for the financial year 2024-25).

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

for more information about Pupil Premium Funding for schools.

You can register your entitlement for Free School Meals if you have children who attend a school in Bath and North East Somerset or children who attend The Mendip School, Shepton Mallet, **and** are in receipt of the following benefits:

- 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
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit **without** Working Tax Credit **and** an annual income below £16,190

- Child Tax Credit with Working Tax Credit **run-on** which is only paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for WTC
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## **To register for Benefit Related Free School Meals in Bath and North East Somerset Council**

- Using the web link <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> this is the quickest way to apply
- download and complete the registration form at [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk) and email it back to us at [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)
- Complete a registration form at your School or Academy or Council Connect offices at the Guildhall in Bath, The Civic Centre in Keynsham, or The Hollies in Midsomer Norton.
- Call 01225 394317 to make a telephone registration, if you reach our answerphone, please leave a message and we will call you back.

OR

- Print and complete the Free School Meals Registration and send it to our postal address: Free School Meals Team, People and Communities Finance, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG.
- If you live in Bath & North East Somerset and your child attends a School or Academy in another Local Authority you will need to register for Free School Meals in that authority.

- NB: If your child attends a Local Authority maintained Nursery, Free School Meals can only be provided for the funded sessions before and after lunch up to a maximum of two sessions per week.

## **What happens next?**

The Local Authority will check your eligibility to qualifying benefits on your behalf using the DFE Online Free School Meal Eligibility Checking System. Your National Insurance or National Asylum Seeker Support Number and Date of Birth will be required to do this.

We will inform both yourself and the relevant school(s) of your child(s) entitlement to benefit related free school meals, or alternatively whether your registration has been refused and if so, on what grounds.

## **What happens if my circumstances change?**

If any of the following changes in circumstances occur, please inform the Free School Meal team.

- If an additional child is starting school
- If you move house (please also tell the school(s))

# Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions or need advice:

- E-mail [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)
- Contact Free School Meals 01225 394317 Monday-Friday  
If you reach our answerphone please leave a message and we will call you back.
- Write to us at the postal address on page 2.

Is your 2, 3 or 4 year old claiming Early Years Entitlement (EYE) at a nursery, pre-school or with a childminder, and you are receiving any of the benefits listed in this leaflet? If so, your child's nursery, preschool or childminder **could receive Early Years Pupil Premium funding** from Bath and North East Somerset council?

This is additional funding to offer extra support to your child. Support can be anything from, providing extra one-to-one support, to investing in resources which will boost your child's learning.

2, 3 & 4 year olds will also be eligible if: They have been in local-authority care for 1 day or more in England or Wales, they have been adopted from care in England or Wales or they have left care through a special guardianship order or a child arrangement order in England or Wales.

