

Free School Meals

Children who attend a Somerset County Council school, whose parents or carers receive certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals.

Only the benefits listed here – and no other benefits – qualify you for free school meals for your children.

These are the benefits.

- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7,400 after tax
- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income related) – not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) – not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190, as long as the family is not also in receipt of Working Tax Credit.

If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals.

Eligibility

Children must be in school all day and they will be provided with a meal at lunchtime which is paid for by the school.

It is the responsibility of the parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children.

Children in pre-school or nursery (known as childcare providers) do not qualify for a free meal until they start school, but applications will be processed so that when your child starts school, you will already be notified whether they qualify for a free school meal or not.

Apply

To make an application for free school meals, you can submit an online application at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

We also hold some paper copies of the application form in the school office.