

# Free School Meals

*“It’s more than a meal – it’s extra support for your child.”*



Did you know that even if your child gets a free school meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, it’s really important to apply for benefits-related Free School Meals?

## **Here’s why:**

- If you apply and are eligible, your child’s school receives extra funding called Pupil Premium. This money is used to support children with things like trips, clubs, extra help in lessons, and wellbeing support.
- If you don’t apply, your child will still get their free meal in KS1, but the school won’t receive the extra funding to support them.
- Once your child moves into Year 3, they will no longer get a free meal unless you’ve applied and qualified for benefits-related FSM.

## **Who can apply?**

You may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit (with household earnings under £7,400 a year, after tax)
- Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if income is under £16,190, and you’re not also receiving Working Tax Credit)

## **How to apply:**

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Applying is quick and confidential. Even if you’re not sure you qualify, it’s worth checking—you could be helping both your child and the whole school community.



Little Way Catholic  
Educational Trust