

# Free School Meals



Did you know that, subject to criteria, your child could be getting a **FREE MEAL** at school? We believe that many families in our community are eligible but have not yet applied.

**DON'T MISS OUT** – if you receive one of the following benefits then please complete an application:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190).

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having 'no recourse to public funds'), your child may still be eligible for free school meals.

## Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals. **However, it is still really important, if you are in receipt of one of the above benefits, that you complete the form.**

It might mean that the school can get extra funding (called Pupil Premium) which can be used to support your child's education.

## Pupil Premium Funding

For the 2025 to 2026 financial year, schools in England receive Pupil Premium funding of £1,515 for primary-aged pupils who are eligible for free school meals (FSM), or who have been eligible in the past 6 years (Ever 6). Looked-after children (LAC) or those previously in care receive a higher rate of £2,630. Ways that Pupil Premium funding is used to support our pupils at St. Bernadette's is available to see on the academy website, under 'Pupil Premium Strategy Statement'.

## How do I apply for Free School Meals?

Please use the link below for North Lincolnshire Council to find out whether your child is entitled to Free School Meals:

[www.northlincs.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

Failure to apply if you are eligible could mean missing out on free school meals for your child (at a cost of £513 per child, per year), vouchers, and further funding for the academy.