**Free School Meals & Pupil Premium**

Whilst all children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal under the Universal Free School Meal entitlement, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to also complete a [free school meal application form](https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Enrol/Website_live/default.aspx) as each child eligible for a Free School Meal based upon parental income attracts a “Pupil Premium” for the School which is provided by Central Government and equates to a cash amount for your child’s School.

This is then used to support children’s education through the provision of additional support and resources at the School. Our recent report on how we use Pupil Premium is available to read on our school website.

To complete and submit a claim form please visit Halton Borough Council’s website. The form can be found by clicking through the following tabs; Education & Families – Schools – School Meals – Free School Meals – Parent Portal.

**Eligibility**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

* 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 (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
* Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
* Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both younger than the compulsory school age and in full-time education.

When you complete a [Housing/Council Tax Benefit form](https://www.northgate-nes.co.uk/pls/pwslive/call_initial_apex_page.nes_selfsrv?service=NEB&la=halt), and meet the correct eligibility criteria, this automatically entitles your child to free school meals.  Schools will be directly advised of this eligibility and your child will remain eligible for the period you are in receipt of the qualifying benefit.

For a small number of parents in receipt of Child Tax Credit, they will be required to make a Free School Meals application.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require assistance at any stage.