



Free School Meals Application Form

You can apply for free school meals if you and your child live in the borough. You must get one of the benefits listed overleaf **and** receive child benefit for the child you are responsible for.

If your child gets a free school meal the school will get additional funding known as a pupil premium. This money helps the school improve the education they provide.

To apply, fill in and post this form to us at the following address: **Revenues and Benefits, RBC, PO Box 490, Rochdale, OL16 9AJ.**

You and your partner

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	National Insurance or NASS Number	Date your qualifying benefit started

Your dependent children – list all your children

First Name	Last Name	Male /Female	Date of Birth	School attending	Date started

Your Address _____ Postcode _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Declaration

I/We declare the information given on this form is correct and complete.

I/We understand that if the information given is incorrect or incomplete, you may take action against me/us.

I/We understand that you may check the information given on this form.

I/We know that if my/our circumstances change after I/we make this claim then I/We must tell you.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____ Date: _____

Qualifying benefits

To get free school meals for your child, you or your partner must get one of the following

- Income Support (IS).
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- An Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you aren't entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an income that doesn't exceed the current year's level.
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the 4-week period immediately after your employment finished.
- Universal Credit.

You do not need to provide proof of your qualifying benefit as we will check entitlement via a secure government website.

Children who get Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance or income-related Employment Support Allowance in their own right can also apply for free school meals.

Other help is available for pupils aged 16-19 in full-time education from the Local Education Authority.

If your child is struggling with the costs of learning they should speak to student services at their school, college or training provider for more information.

Or contact Positive Steps free on **0800 195 8528**

Universal Infant Free School Meals

From September 2014 all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. This includes academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision as well as maintained schools.

They are available regardless of their parent's or guardian's income. Please contact your child's school if you want them to receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal.

Refunds - If we award free school meals for a period of time you have paid for, you must contact the school for a refund.

This form can be returned by post to Revenues & Benefits, PO Box 490, Rochdale OL16 9AJ

Or hand it in at one of our Customer Service Centres at: Number One Riverside, Smith St, Rochdale, OL16 1XU. Middleton Library, Long St, Middleton, M24 6DU. Heywood Library, Lance Corporal Stephen Shaw MC Way, Heywood, OL10 1LL.

For more information on Free School Meals you can:

Phone us on: 0300 303 8870 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Or visit our website: www.rochdale.gov.uk