

**How to
Apply**

**Free School
Meals**

Parents/Guardians - Change in Circumstance

Following the introduction of the new Universal Credit earning threshold, all children who are currently eligible for Free School Meals & Uniform Grants will continue to receive these benefits until at least 31 March 2022.

However, it is crucial that all parents update any change of personal details, i.e. address / name / parent / guardian(s) during this period to March 2022. Failure to do so will result in delays in receiving clothing vouchers.

Personal details can be updated online.

Where parents/guardians are unable to update their details online, they should contact the Free School Meal Service – telephone: 01228 606060.

How to Apply

In order for Cumbria County Council to provide an improved service throughout this busy period, Parents/guardians should - **Apply online for Free School Meals & Clothing Grants**

The online application process provides parents/guardians with an immediate eligibility decision; this will assist us to avoid disappointment and reduce unnecessary applications.

Please Note; all children who currently receive Free School Meals and Clothing Grants do not need to apply each year.

Important Information for Schools

Where parents/guardians are unable to apply online, they should contact the Free School Meal Service to request a paper application form – telephone: 01228 606060.

Schools should not circulate paper application forms to parents/guardians; instead we ask that schools request parents/guardians apply online.

The paper application form has now been updated; therefore any 'old-style' copies held by schools should be destroyed.

'Old-style' application forms will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.