

Are you entitled to free school meals?

If your child attends a Nottinghamshire County Council school and you also receive one of the following support payments you will be entitled to **free school meals**. Children aged 7 and under will also be entitled to **free school milk**.

- income support
- income-based jobseekers allowance
- income-related employment support allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of state pension credit
- child tax credit (provided they are not entitled to working tax credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)

Children who receive income support or income related employment support allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals (this situation often applies to post-16 pupils in special schools).

A greater number of school nurseries will now be offering sessions over the lunch time period in order to accommodate the new 15 hour entitlement. Children who attend school nurseries between the period 11am and 2pm may also be eligible to receive free school meals if they meet the eligibility criteria detailed above.

For further information and advice, please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-dinners/free-school-meals/
Or contact us on 0300 500 80 80 (minicom (01623 436657))

How to apply

The easiest way to apply is by telephoning 01623 433009

When you ring us we will need the following:

- Your personal details (including your national insurance number and date of birth)
- Your partner's personal details (someone you are married to, have entered into a civil partnership with, or live with as though you are married) and your child's details in full including their date of birth and the school they attend
- We will verify your entitlement to an eligible benefit through the Department for Education Electronic Checking System. If we are unable to confirm your entitlement we will let you know what to do next
- If you are eligible for free school meals and/or milk the start date will normally be within two days of you contacting us and your entitlement being verified. We will also write to you and your child's school to confirm the date your child's free school meals and milk will start.

Your child will continue to receive free school meals and milk while you are receiving the qualifying benefit. If your qualifying benefit stops you must tell us immediately. **Your benefit office will not inform us on your behalf.** You may have to repay the cost of any meals and milk your child received from the date your qualifying benefit stopped.