

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS

## HOW TO APPLY



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Applying is quick, easy and could save you up to £495 per child, per year on school lunches

### 1 CHECK IF YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE

From September 2026, more families may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):

- TARGETED FSM - based on low household income (see benefits listed below)
- EXPANDED FSM - if you receive Universal Credit, you may be eligible



#### MY CHILD IS IN RECEPTION OR KS1 - DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY?

Yes, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically. However, registering for Free School Meals may provide access to additional funding and support for the school and your child.



#### YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FSM IF:

1. Your household receives Universal Credit

OR

2. You receive any of the following benefits:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act\*
- Child Tax Credit\*
- Working Tax Credit\*

\*further details apply - [see full list here.](#)

### 2 HOW TO APPLY - You can apply using the following methods:



#### APPLY ONLINE (recommended)

Apply before the end of the summer break, via your local council website:

- ▶ North Somerset Council - [apply here](#)
- ▶ BANES Council - [apply here](#)
- ▶ Bristol City Council - [apply here](#)



#### APPLY USING A PAPER FORM

Complete the paper application form and return it to your school office before the end of July 2026.

- ✓ You can find the [form here](#)
- ✓ Hard copies are available from the school office
- ✓ If your child is moving to a new school in September, please pass the form to the new school before the end of term

### 3 WHEN TO APPLY

Apply online over the summer break, or return the paper form to your school office by the end of the summer term, to ensure your paper work is processed in time for the start of September.

### 4 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You will be notified of the outcome of your application.

Important to note: parents will need to reapply every year

#### FIND OUT MORE

Follow the QR code to find further details



FIND OUT MORE: [WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES](http://WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES)