

Free School Meals – from September 2015

You may be entitled to free school meals for your child if you are in receipt of one of the following;

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 and you are not claiming Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are already receiving Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Support and your child is due to start primary school for the first time in September 2015, we will use the information you have provided to us about your income to register your child for free school meals. We will need you to sign a letter to say you want free school meals for your child. Therefore we will write to all eligible parents in August 2015.

If you do not claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support and are entitled to one of the qualifying benefits please contact us on 0161 253 5858 after 17 August 2015 and we will process your claim over the phone.

You may also be entitled to free school meals if your child is starting a nursery and is receiving education before and after lunch. Please contact us on 0161 253 5858 after 17 August 2015 and we will confirm if you are entitled and process your claim over the phone.

Universal Infant Free School Meals were introduced in September 2014 and saw all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 entitled to a free meal at lunchtime. If you receive one of the qualifying benefits, it's still worth registering your child for free school meals, even if they are in the age group which qualifies for the new universal scheme. This is because schools receive a 'pupil premium' payment for each eligible child which they can spend on things which will benefit your child's education.

If you live outside Bury Council please contact the council where you live to claim free school meals.

If you have any further enquiries:

- please see our website at www.bury.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals; or
- telephone us on 0161 253 5858; or
- e-mail us at freeschoolmeals@bury.gov.uk.