



As from September, there are some changes to Pupil Premium and Free School Meals Funding, and the Government is updating the way eligibility is assessed.

Categories of Free School Meals (FSM)

- Targeted FSM – where income is lower than £7,400 or less, will also receive Pupil Premium Funding.
- Expanded FSM – where parents are in receipt of Universal Credit, will receive Free School Meals only

Pupil Premium - Is extra government funding that is paid to schools for every child who is eligible. It can help to pay for important things, like school trips, music lessons, and additional help with subjects like English and Maths. As well as, paying for free school meals (this applies even if your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2).

Free School Meals - If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, the government have removed the cap on net earned income, so now all in receipt of Universal Credit are entitled to claim Free School Meals.

Eligibility status will be re-checked for September and on a yearly basis. There are no longer any transitional protections.

If you are in receipt of the benefits detailed below, your child may be entitled to Free School Meals funding:

Who Qualifies:

Your child can get free school meals if you receive any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit (with no earnings limit)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you do not get Working Tax Credit and earn under £16,190)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are in receipt of Working Tax Credits then you do not qualify for Pupil Premium or Free School Meals.

In order to find out whether you are eligible, you need to apply via West Berkshire Council. Please find a link below, which gives you information about eligibility and how to apply.

www.westberks.gov.uk/free-school-meals-pupil-premium

Detailed below are the telephone number and email address of the department you can call at West Berkshire Council for advice:

Telephone: 01635 503622

Email: freeschoolmeals@westberks.gov.uk