



Complete an online application form to claim additional funding for your child's school



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are asking parents and guardians whose children go to school in the Cheshire West and Chester area, have a child in reception, year 1 or year 2 in September 2025 and have an entitlement to free school meals to complete an on-line application for free school meals.

Please go to www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk, Schools & Education, then Free School Meals where you can apply on-line. The on-line eligibility checker will notify you straight away if you do or do not qualify. We will start to accept applications for Free School Meals from July 2025, so please do not apply before July 2025 as your application may not be accepted.

All pupils in the above year groups will be able to receive a school meal at no cost to the parent/guardian. We need to ensure that all parents/guardians that have a statutory entitlement to a free school meal complete the on-line form. We will then be able to confirm whether the school is entitled to claim the pupil premium for your child.

The Pupil Premium is extra money given to your child's school to spend on resources such as one to one tutoring, music lessons, extra curricular clubs and school trips. For 2025/2026 this is **£1515 (Primary Schools)**. Funding is based on children registered for a free school meal, further reinforcing the importance of making sure all those who qualify are actually registered.

Your child may be entitled to receive free school meals if you are entitled to receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- Universal Credit (Provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than **£7,400**)



It is really important that you complete the on-line form to help make sure your child's school is funded as well as possible. If you cannot apply on-line you can telephone Free School Meals on 0300 123 7039, but this is only if you do not have access to the internet.

Yours sincerely
Free School Meals