

Dear parents/guardians,

The Department for Education has recently changed who is eligible for Free School Meals to include children from households with No Recourse to Public Funds (subject to income thresholds). Even if your child was not previously eligible, you may now be entitled to support so please read below.

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

The following children are now eligible for support:

- Children from families with No Recourse to Public Funds with a right to remain in the UK on the grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Children from families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- Children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Families holding a BN(O) passport
- Spousal visa holders, work visa holders, student visa holders
- Children of Zambrano and Chen carers
- Those with no immigration status / those who are undocumented

This is not a full list of children who may be eligible, so if you have No Recourse to Public Funds but the above does not apply to you please fill in the application form and contact *insert contact here* to discuss further.

If you are legally able to work, your maximum annual household income to qualify should be:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with 1 child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with 2 or more children
- £31,200 for families within London with 1 child
- £34,800 for families within London with 2 or more children

How to claim?

To start claiming Free School Meals for your child/children, please fill in the attached form and return it to the school office. If you are unable to fill it in, the school should be able to assist you.

If possible, please give proof of your immigration status and income. **If you do not have proof of immigration status you can still access Free School Meals for your child through self-declaration to the school.** Self-declaration could simply include written confirmation from you of your immigration status. An example of this is '*I (name), confirm that I have the following immigration status: (immigration status, e.g. undocumented or spousal visa)*'.

Families who do not have the legal right to work in the UK are not required to provide evidence of income.

How will your information be used?

It is not in the Department for Education's process to share information with the Home Office.

As set out in the [sample application form](#) provided by the Department for Education, applicants agree to provide information for the purpose of it being shared with the Department for Education to assess eligibility for free school meals.

Your school's census returns to the Department for Education will include overall numbers of pupils eligible for Free School Meals so the school can receive the right funding, e.g. Pupil Premium, but will have no indication of pupils' immigration status.

In case of any issues, please contact your school or families can contact the Department for Education directly using the information on the [contact DfE page](#).

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