

Free School Meals

The eligibility criteria for free school meals have changed and this letter explains the changes and how they might affect you and your child. From 1st April 2018, children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit, provided parents have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

I don't currently claim free school meals – what does this mean for me?

If you think your child is eligible and you would like to submit an application for free school meals you can do so directly with Hertfordshire County Council by [clicking here](#).

I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

If you are currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

If you need any further information, please visit the free school meal website at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Kind regards
School Office