

Frequently asked questions

If I am entitled to claim free school meals, what does this mean?

You are able to claim a free school meal for your child from the standard menu at the canteen or cafeteria at his or her school.

How do I apply?

Application forms are available in a variety of ways. You can request a paper copy by ringing 01234 228948, calling in at Borough Hall Reception or any Bedford Borough School. You can also apply online at www.bedford.gov.uk.

Who qualifies for free school meals?

You may qualify if your child attends a school full time in the Bedford Borough area, and you receive any of the following: Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190), Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

I do not live in Bedford Borough but my child goes to a school in the Bedford Borough area.

Which council do I apply to?

If your child is attending a Bedford Borough school full time, then you should apply to Bedford Borough Council.

Do I need to send in proof of my income?

No. Once you have applied we will check your details using our electronic checking service which accesses data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office and HM Revenue and Customs.

How will I know if I qualify for free school meals?

We will write to you to confirm or decline your application.

Do I have to re-apply each year?

No, but you **MUST** let us know if your circumstances change.

Free school meals?



don't
miss
out!

Why pay for school meals when your child can get them for free? If you receive benefits your child could be tucking into a free tasty meal every day - that's a saving of at least £360 per year.

Don't delay,
apply today...

01234 228948 
Bedford Borough Council www.bedford.gov.uk

Do you or your partner receive any of the following benefits?

- Income Support,
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance,
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit,
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999,
- Child Tax Credit (provided you or your partner is not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190).

NO

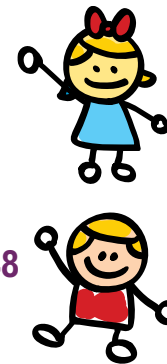
Have you just stopped working and you are receiving Working Tax Credit run-on?

YES

YES

You may qualify for free school meals

For further information please contact 01234 228948



Around 3700 pupils in Bedford Borough currently get free school meals. We think there are lots more who could qualify. We would like to help families whose children could get free school meals to apply for them.

Why apply?

- school dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal
 - research shows a school dinner can help concentration levels
 - even if you do not have the meal, it will help your school – for every child that registers for a free school meal the school will receive extra finance from the Government.
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**So what are you waiting for?
Apply today – it's easy to do!**

 www.bedford.gov.uk
 **01234 228948**

