



**Pupil Support
Benefits**
4th Floor
Laurence House
Catford
London
SE6 4RU

pupil.support@lewisham.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian

Important information about Free School Meals

Free school meals are part of something called 'pupil premium'. As well as providing free school meals, pupil premium provides extra funding of up to £1,350 to your child's school. The school can then use this funding to support your child's education through extra tuition, teaching staff or after-school activities.

If your child is in Reception, Years 1 and 2 they are automatically eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meal. However for them to qualify for Pupil Premium you will need to submit a free school meal application.

For children in years 3 and above an application is required and if this is successful you could save up to £400 a year.

Families are eligible for free school meals if they receive one or more of the following benefits:

- **Income- based:** Jobseeker's Allowance (**Not eligible if on contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance**)
- **Income –related:** Employment Support Allowance (**Not eligible if on contribution based Employment Support Allowance**)
- Income Support
- Universal Credit
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child tax credit

And if the combined annual household income is below £16,190.

Please note the following

- If your income is below £16,190 and you are not on any benefits your family will not be eligible for free school meals.
- If you receive working tax credit regardless of your annual household income your family will not be eligible for free school meals.
- If one partner/spouse in the household is on benefit and the other is on annual income above £16,190 your family will not be eligible for free school meals.
- If one partner/spouse in the household is on contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance or contribution based Employment Support Allowance your family will not be eligible for free school meals.

If you are in receipt of one of the benefits above, you can apply online at www.lewisham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. For further information please refer to the Lewisham website.

Yours faithfully

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