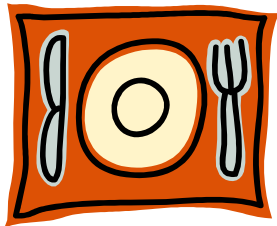


Do I have to re-apply each year?

No you don't. BCP Council will re-use the information you give in your application to make repeat automatic checks.



If you have any questions or need some assistance with making your application for a free school meal award for your child, please contact the school office on 01202 485436

**If you think you are entitled to apply please contact BCP Council on
Tel : 01202 456222**

If you would like more details about the free school meals eligibility checking process carried out by BCP Council, please go to:

<https://www.christchurch.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>



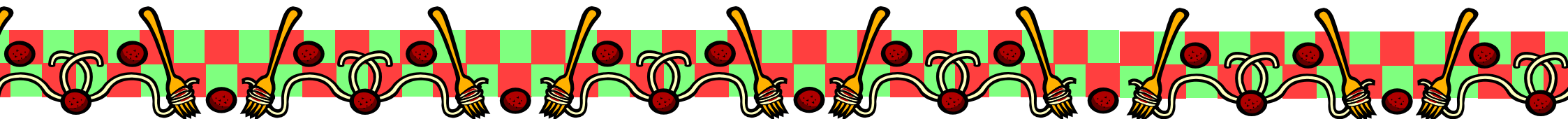
Somerford Primary School

Will my child qualify for Free School Meals?



Applying for free school meals is a quick process and is really important as the school receives vital extra funding based on the number of pupils registered for this award. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch to school, please apply as this extra money is used to support your child's learning.

2019—2020



To receive free school meals you must be in receipt of one of the following qualifying benefits:

- 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 guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're 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
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

I haven't applied for free school meals because I don't want the school to know about my financial situation.

The school will not be given any information about your financial situation or about which benefit you receive.

How do I apply for free school meals?

You can apply online at <https://www.christchurch.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx> or by telephoning BCP council on **01202 456222**
You will need to tell them your :

- Name
- Date of birth
- National Insurance Number
- Child's details - name, date of birth, and school for which you want free school meals

BCP Council will make automated checks and will be able to tell you almost immediately whether you are entitled to a free school meal award for your child.

School uniform allowance and a discount off the cost of residential school trips.

When we receive confirmation that your child is entitled to receive free school meals you will be given an allowance of 1 free school jumper/cardigan every year. In addition, you will also be entitled to a discount on any residential school trips your child may attend.

My children all go to different schools - can I apply for them all at the same time?

Yes, the award is made for the family - so long as they all attend schools in BCP Council just give details of all your children and their schools to BCP Council when you check eligibility

My youngest child has just started school and already has brothers and sisters who receive free school meals - do I need to reapply?

Yes you do so that the new child can be included in your family's current free school meals award.

How long will a free school meals award last?

The award will remain in place for as long as your child continues to attend a BCP school and you continue to receive one of the qualifying benefits. You will have to notify BCP Council of any changes to your benefit status which may affect your continued entitlement.

