



John of Rolleston Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians/Carer

HELP US WITH YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

Please help us provide the best possible support for your child by registering for free school meals.

Question - My child already receives a free lunch on the Sherborne site, why should I register for Free School Meals (FSM)?

The free meal that children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 is different to an application being put in by a parent for free school meals (FSM). **If you apply for FSM you could raise an extra £1,320 for your child in school, each year for 6 years running!**

Question - Can anyone apply for FSM?

You can claim free school meals for your children if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190.
- Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (from 30th April 2005)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit

It is really important to apply for FSM, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2, so that we can receive as much funding as possible.



Question - What can the money be spent on?

This funding can only be spent on the **education of pupils receiving FSM**. It is called 'Pupil Premium' and its purpose is to ensure that those children are not at a financial disadvantage during their education, as a result of home financial circumstances.

Question - How would my child benefit if I applied for FSM?

This would depend on **your child's needs**, it could be used to provide three extra half-hour sessions of reading, writing and maths tuitions each week, which had a really positive impact last year. Significant reductions are available for school trips/residential trips, as well as music tuition. We have even funded some children's private speech and language therapy.

Question - When can I apply?

You can apply for FSM anytime. So why not do it now? If you do not meet the criteria now, but your circumstances change in the future, then remember to apply!

Question - How do I apply?

You can apply on-line:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educationalawardsbenefits/FreeSchoolMeals/home.aspx>

If you need any help, please contact the office. All information will be treated confidentially.

Thank you!

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Please contact me about help to apply for Free School Meals.

Your Name:

Contact Number:

Child's Name: