



Free school meals

Could your child be entitled to a

FREE

school meal?

If you are in receipt of benefits, your child could be entitled to a free school meal and you could save up to £500 per year.

School meals provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal and a school lunch has shown to improve levels of concentration.



For more information, please visit
www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



As well as being a good thing for your child, your child's school may also receive extra funding through the Government's Pupil Premium Grant which can help fund valuable support including extra tuition, additional support staff or after-school activities.

From September 2026

All children from households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to free school meals (FSM)

Targeted free school meals

Targeted free school meals are for children whose parents/carers meet the government's eligibility rules.

- **Example** (not a full list): you may qualify if you are on **Universal Credit** and your household income is under **£7,400** a year (after tax and not including benefits).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Are in receipt of income-related employment and support allowance
- Receive the guaranteed element of pension credit
- Meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no recourse to public funds
- Support from **National Asylum Support Service (NASS)**

Expanded free school meals (from September 2026)

Expanded free school meals are for children whose parents/carers receive Universal Credit above the £7,400 earnings threshold

Transitional protection (ending 31 August 2026)

- Some children have had "transitional protection" since April 2018, which meant they kept free meals for a set period.
- This protection is planned to end in August 2026.
- Children will be checked again in summer 2026 and then each year, in line with the new rules.



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