

# Apply online for free school meals



From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending maintained schools, academies and free schools will be entitled to receive a free meal. Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/)

You can secure a tasty free meal for your child and **save yourself up to £495 per year**. Plus, schools receive extra funding for each child registered as Targeted FSM – this category relates to children who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. Even if you don't want your child to take a free meal, you should still apply to ensure their school receives all the government funding to which it is entitled, helping them provide your child with the best education and support.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and receives a Universal Infant Free School Meal arranged by their school you should still apply to enable your child's school to get any extra funding to which it is entitled. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, please speak to your child's school.

**For further information, including a list of qualifying benefits, visit our website or speak to your child's school today.**