



**Free School Meals** can be slightly confusing to parents. The difference is:

**Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)** - all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be eligible for a hot school meal free of charge from September, no application and no additional funding to school.

**Free School Meals (FSM)** - every pupil registered with the council as eligible under the entitlement criteria below, **the school will receive additional funding in the school budget called Pupil Premium (£1,300 per child)** which is used to help raise achievement levels. This also include enabling access to facilities, clubs, and subsidising trips and residential. If you do not claim for Free School Meals, then the Pupil Premium funding will not be available for your child (e.g. subsidising the above).

Lancashire County Council will do a 'bulk check' on all reception children and will notify us if your child is eligible.

## Who is Eligible?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

If your child is eligible for free school meals, that eligibility will be protected until Universal Credit is introduced (expected March 2022) even if your circumstances change. If your child is still in education on this date, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in.

If you have a younger child starting school in September and you are no longer eligible, they will not be protected because this would be a new claim.