



## Could your child be eligible for free school meals?

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware there are significant changes to free school meal eligibility following the roll out of Universal Credit. The government have said that any child who is eligible for a free school meal before the 1st April 2018 will have their eligibility protected until the end of the roll out of Universal Credit.

The changes mean that a child in Year 3 today who is eligible for a free school meal will continue to be eligible for a free school meal until the end of secondary school. Applications must be made **this week** in order to be protected. Applications made after 1st April 2018 will be based on the new criteria and will not receive any protection.

If your child does not receive a free school meal and you are in receipt of any of the benefits mentioned below please apply before the deadline. You might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are 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.

I have enclosed the application form which is just one page long. You can apply direct to the council using the address on the form or return your form to the school office by **Thursday 29 March**.

Anyone already eligible for a free school meal does not need to reapply.

Yours sincerely,

Moira Bryan  
Headteacher