

Applying for free school meals

Find out if you're eligible for meal support while your child isn't attending school, and how to apply.

Who's eligible?

You're eligible for meal support if your child is between 5 and 16 years old and if you receive any of the following benefits:

- > Income support
- > Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- > Income-related employment and support allowance
- > Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- > The guaranteed element of pension credit
- > Child tax credit (if you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- > Working tax credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit
- > Universal credit - if you applied for it on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you've started receiving any of these benefits since the coronavirus outbreak, you're eligible for meal support.

You're also temporarily eligible for support during this period of school closure if you fall into one of the following immigration categories and your annual household earnings are £7,400 or less:

- > You're a Zambrano carer (this is when you're not a British citizen but you're the primary carer of a British citizen child, and you having to leave the UK would force that child to leave the European Economic Area)
- > You have 'no recourse to public funds' but you have a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- > You receive support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and you're subject to a 'no recourse to public funds' restriction

You're also temporarily eligible if, regardless of your annual household earnings:

- > You're a failed asylum seeker supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

This temporary eligibility is expected to end when the school reopens. Get in touch if you're not sure whether you fall into one of these immigration categories.

How to apply

You need to apply on line through Cornwall County Council Website using the link below:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/application-for-free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium/>

How will I receive the meals?

- > You will receive a single voucher of £15 each week/ weekly £15 rolling voucher per eligible child
- > You can spend this voucher in supermarkets on appropriate food and drink for your child
- > You should not spend the voucher on any age-restricted items, such as alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets