



Windmill Primary School

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Achievement through Creativity, Community and Challenge

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Pupils in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to receive a free school lunch through the introduction of the Governments' Universal Infant Free School Meals policy (UIFSM). In addition to the above, many pupils in school are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians are in receipt of benefits. The eligibility criteria for these free school meals have been changed. This letter explains the changes and how they might affect you.

What are the new eligibility criteria?

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you are eligible, your school will be notified. Your child will receive free school meals and the school will receive extra funding, even if after claiming your child chooses to have packed lunches.

I don't currently claim free school meals – what does this mean for me?

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, come into the school office for an application form. The information you provide will be used to check if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit

I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

Where can I get more information?

If you need any further information, please speak to a member of school office staff. You can also visit the free school meal website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Lynn Knapp
Headteacher



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