Hertfordshire County Council
Children, Schools and Families
www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Free School Meals

A guide to free school meals for parents/carers and families

Did you know that Hertfordshire County Council could save you £300 every year?
If you receive one of the following benefits, you could be eligible for free school meals worth over £300 per child per year.

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment finishes or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week

You can apply to Hertfordshire County Council if:

- Your child attends a Hertfordshire school full-time. If your child attends a Hertfordshire Academy or Free School, or attends a Hertfordshire nursery for morning or afternoon sessions only, please confirm arrangements for applications with your child's school/nursery
- You attend a Hertfordshire school full-time and are in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits listed on page 1.

Please note that if your child does not attend school in Hertfordshire, you should apply to the school's local authority, regardless of where you live

How will applying help you and your child?

- School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal
- Research suggests that a healthy school dinner may improve concentration level
- Menus are changed often and can be viewed online at: www.hertsdirect.org/catering
- Local produce is used whenever possible

Don't miss out, apply now!

Applying for free school meals in Hertfordshire has never been easier or faster! We recommend you **apply online** at **www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals**

The benefits of applying online include:

• It's quick and easy to do – most online applications take about ten minutes to complete. Please make sure you have your national insurance number to hand.
• It can be done whenever it suits you, with no need for face-to-face or telephone contact
• In most cases, you won't have to provide paper proof of benefit
• You won't have to reapply for free school meals every year
• Your child will get their free school meals without delay
• You can apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can obtain access and support at any of the following locations:
• Public Libraries
• UK Online Centres
• Your child's school

Please note:
Applications must be made in the name of the person who is receiving the qualifying benefit, or there may be a delay in processing the application.
If your application is accepted, you will be notified immediately. Your child's school will also be advised to ensure the free school meal is provided straight away.

For more information or assistance with your application
Visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals
Or
Call our customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday).