

## Free School Meals

### **Who is eligible**

To qualify for free school meals families must be receiving one of these:

- 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 Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,040

Lewisham has no discretion in providing this benefit and works strictly to government legislation. Free school meals will continue as long as you receive a qualifying benefit. You do not need to reapply each year.

### **How to apply**

To apply, call us on 0208 314 6221 – we will be able to tell you immediately if you qualify and schools will be notified by the end of the next working day. Lines are open from 10am – 4pm. We can also assist you should you have any difficulties in completing the forms. You can also:

- Download the form online or send us an online enquiry and we will post you a form at:  
**<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/StudentandPupilSupport/FreeSchoolMealApplication.htm>**
- Contact your child's school directly
- Visit any Lewisham AccessPoint

### **When to apply**

Free school meals cannot be backdated, so you should apply as soon as your children require free meals.

**Contact the Department;**

**Pupil Support**

Tel: 020 8314 6221

Email: [pupil.support@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:pupil.support@lewisham.gov.uk)

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