

Universal Free School Meals

Since September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been be eligible for Universal Free School Meals

Even though your school offers a free school meal every day, you can help your school receive extra funding from the Government by completing a Free School Meal registration.

You should only register if you are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits.

- **Income Support/Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA) or**
- **income-related Employment and Support allowance (ESA)**
- **the Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit**
- **support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999**
- **Child Tax Credit (provided 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 - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)**
- **Universal Credit**

How to register for free school meals?

You can now register for Free School Meals online at www.redbridge.gov.uk, or over the telephone by contacting the Awards & Support Team on 0208 708 3114/2561.

If your registration is successful you will benefit the school your child/children attend.

Will I need to provide benefit proof?

You may not need to provide proof of benefit as the Department for Education (DFE) has provided the Local Authority with an Online Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility checking service (ECS); this allows us to verify if parents/carers registering for FSM meet the eligibility criteria entitlement for free school meals.

The FSM ECS is only used for checking free school meal eligibility as part of the FSM registration process.

Should proofs be required the Awards & Support Team will contact you to request proof of benefit received as listed above.