1. [Home](https://www.gov.uk/)
2. [Childcare and parenting](https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting)
3. [Schools and education](https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/schools-education)

**Apply for free school meals**

Check if your child can get free school meals in England and find out how to apply on your local authority’s website.

There’s a different process if you live in [Northern Ireland](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/nutrition-and-school-lunches), [Scotland](https://www.mygov.scot/school-meals/) or [Wales](http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/foodanddrink/freeschoolmeals/?lang=en).

Top of Form

Postcode lookup

Enter a postcode

For example SW1A 2AA



Find

[Find a postcode on Royal Mail's postcode finder](http://www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode)

Bottom of Form

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

* 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 (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 - if you apply 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)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

* younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/)
* in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they’ll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they’re in on 31 March 2022.

**Infant free school meals in England**

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they’re in a [government-funded school](https://www.gov.uk/types-of-school) and in:

* reception class
* year 1
* year 2

Tell your local authority if you also get any of the qualifying benefits. Your child’s school can get extra funding if you do.

**Related content**

* [Help with home to school transport](https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport)
* [Get help with school uniform costs](https://www.gov.uk/help-school-clothing-costs)
* [School meals - healthy eating standards](https://www.gov.uk/school-meals-healthy-eating-standards)

**Explore the topic**

* [**Benefits for families**](https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/families)
* [**Financial help if you have children**](https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/financial-help-children)
* [**Schools and education**](https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/schools-education)
* [**Schools and curriculum**](https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/school-life)

**Is this page useful?**

* [Yesthis page is useful](https://www.gov.uk/contact/govuk)

* [Nothis page is not useful](https://www.gov.uk/contact/govuk)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](https://www.gov.uk/contact/govuk)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

* [Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Transition period**

* [Transition period: check how to get ready](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

**Services and information**

* [Benefits](https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits)
* [Births, deaths, marriages and care](https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages)
* [Business and self-employed](https://www.gov.uk/browse/business)
* [Childcare and parenting](https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting)
* [Citizenship and living in the UK](https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship)
* [Crime, justice and the law](https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice)
* [Disabled people](https://www.gov.uk/browse/disabilities)
* [Driving and transport](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving)
* [Education and learning](https://www.gov.uk/browse/education)
* [Employing people](https://www.gov.uk/browse/employing-people)
* [Environment and countryside](https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside)
* [Housing and local services](https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing-local-services)
* [Money and tax](https://www.gov.uk/browse/tax)
* [Passports, travel and living abroad](https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad)
* [Visas and immigration](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration)
* [Working, jobs and pensions](https://www.gov.uk/browse/working)

**Departments and policy**

* [How government works](https://www.gov.uk/government/how-government-works)
* [Departments](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations)
* [Worldwide](https://www.gov.uk/world)
* [Services](https://www.gov.uk/search/services)
* [Guidance and regulation](https://www.gov.uk/search/guidance-and-regulation)
* [News and communications](https://www.gov.uk/search/news-and-communications)
* [Research and statistics](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics)
* [Policy papers and consultations](https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations)
* [Transparency and freedom of information releases](https://www.gov.uk/search/transparency-and-freedom-of-information-releases)

**Support links**

* [Help](https://www.gov.uk/help)

* [Privacy](https://www.gov.uk/help/privacy-notice)

* [Cookies](https://www.gov.uk/help/cookies)

* [Contact](https://www.gov.uk/contact)

* [Accessibility statement](https://www.gov.uk/help/accessibility-statement)

* [Terms and conditions](https://www.gov.uk/help/terms-conditions)

* [Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](https://www.gov.uk/cymraeg)

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