

Why apply for Free School Meals?

By applying for Free School Meals, you are helping us to help your child get the most out of school. The extra funding that we get, we use to support children from low-income families achieve their potential.

Here is a list of some of the ways that we use Pupil Premium funding to help children receiving Free School Meals:

- Subsidising school trips
- Subsidising breakfast club places
- Providing Year 5 & 6 classes with an iPad per child
- Running small groups with children in need of extra support
- Offering counselling and well-being therapy



Steps to applying

1. **Check this leaflet to see whether you receive any of the listed benefits.**
2. **Get your National Insurance number and email address ready.**
3. **Go to: www.learningtrust.co.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals**
4. **Register your details with Hackney Citizen Portal.**
5. **Add your child's details on the Portal and then follow the instructions for applying for Free School Meals.**
6. **Wait to see if you are eligible. The school will be told automatically if you are.**

Remember, we are here to help you with your application.

Grazebrook Primary School




new wave
federation

Free School Meals



What are Free School Meals?

All children starting school in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 get a free meal at school regardless of income. This means they get a delicious hot meal at no cost. **However, if you are on a low income, you should still apply so that we can claim the Pupil Premium.**



What is Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is extra money paid direct to schools for each child who is eligible for free school meals due to the household being on a low income. It is used to support your child's education.

In 2021/22, if your child is eligible for free school meals and you apply for it, the school receives £1,345 extra funding to support their education.

Who is eligible for Free School Meals?

You are eligible if you receive **any** of the benefits below:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), with an income of £16,190 or less where the household is not getting Working Tax Credit
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [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)



How do I apply?

It is simple to apply for Free School Meals. All you need is an email address, your National Insurance number and access to the internet:

- Go to the Hackney website: www.learningtrust.co.uk/content/apply-free-school-meals
- This will take you to Hackney Citizens Portal where you will need to register.
- Once you have registered, you add your children to your account and follow the instructions for applying for Free School Meals.
- You will receive an email telling you whether your application has been successful within 5 working days.
- If you are eligible, we will also be informed within 5 working days so we can start the process of claiming extra funding for your child.

If you have any questions or would like help with your application, please ask at the school office. We will be more than happy to help.