

PARENTS & CARERS

Free school meals

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

**A healthy lunch.
A helping hand.**

Find out who qualifies and how to apply for free school meals in Birmingham.



Receive Universal Credit?

From the 2026/27 school year, children in households receiving Universal Credit qualify for free school meals at state-funded schools, regardless of earnings.

At a glance

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All children in these year groups at state-funded schools can have a free lunch through Universal Infant Free School Meals. No benefits-based application is needed for these infant meals.

Year 3 and above

Free meals are available to eligible pupils through the benefits-based scheme. Apply so your child's eligibility can be checked.

Targeted free school meals

This includes households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less after tax, excluding benefits. Qualifying pupils also bring pupil premium funding to their school.

Expanded free school meals

Households receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400 qualify for meals under the expanded scheme. Expanded eligibility alone does not attract pupil premium.

Already getting infant meals?

Still apply for an eligibility check: your school may receive extra funding if your child qualifies for targeted meals.

What else to know

Other circumstances

Your child may also qualify if you receive income-related Employment and Support Allowance, the guarantee element of Pension Credit, or support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

No recourse to public funds?

Some families who cannot claim most benefits can still qualify. Ask your child's school for advice and a check of your circumstances.

If your child already receives free meals

The previous transitional protections ended at the start of the 2026/27 school year. Eligibility is now rechecked annually. Ask the school whether it needs any updated information from you.

Need help?

Speak to your child's school office for help with the application, eligibility questions or applying without internet access. The school can also advise about dietary needs.

Birmingham City Council information

[birmingham.gov.uk - Free school meals](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk - Free school meals)

Ready to apply?

Have these details ready

Your name, date of birth and contact details; your National Insurance or National Asylum Seekers Number; and your child's name, date of birth and school.

1 Open the application page

Scan the QR code below or use the web address.

2 Choose “Start a new application”

Read the declaration and complete the details. Submit a separate application for each child; the service remembers your details to help with the next one.

3 Keep your application reference

You will usually get an immediate eligibility response. To find a previous application, use the reference and your own date of birth, not your child's.



APPLY / CHECK YOUR APPLICATION

**[apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/
ofsm/entrust](https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust)**

Online Free School Meals service (Entrust)