

# School Meals

School meals are available for every child in our school. We do encourage children to have a hot meal at lunchtime. For some children these meals are free.

## **Your child may be entitled to a free meal each day if**

- Parents are in receipt of benefits. These are called benefit related free school meals
- Your child is in Foundation stage, Year 1 or Year 2. These are called Universal Infant School Meal

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal then meals can be paid for by parents / carers.

## **Benefit related free school Meals**

Your child may be able to get free school meals (benefit related) 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)

## **Applying for a benefit related free school meal**

You have to apply for Benefit related free school meals through the County Council website.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

## **The importance of applying**

School also receives additional funding, known as the pupil premium grant allocation, for all children who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. This additional funding is carefully allocated to improve both attainment and achievement and pupil well-being. You can read about where the pupil premium grant allocation is spent on our school website.

<https://weltonstmarysacademy.co.uk/pupil-premium/>

The spend is carefully planned for each year and usually provides

- Extra one-to-one or small-group support for children within the classroom.
- Employing extra teaching assistants to work with classes.
- Running catch-up sessions for children
- Providing extra resources for able children.
- Providing instrumental tuition at a reduced cost.
- Subsidising educational trips, visits and workshops.
- Providing support from our learning mentor.
- Paying for additional learning programmes to support speech and language.
- Investing in resources that boost children's learning, such as laptops or tablets.

All children who are entitled to benefits-related free school meals are able to access a free holiday club at our school over the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. This is until Summer 2024. The children who have attended past clubs have really enjoyed the experiences which have included cooking, physical activity, learning new skills and going to the theatre to see a pantomime.

**We would urge all parents to apply for the funding as whilst you may not be entitled at the moment, should personal circumstances change, you would be informed, as would school, if your child became entitled.**

## Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

The government provide a grant to Welton St. Mary's so that every child in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 receives a school meal that is free of charge. As parents or carers we ask that you order this meal from our hot school meal provider, Good Lookin Cookin, on their website as there are a number of menu choices for each day.

## Booking your school meal

<https://www.goodlookincookin.co.uk/> Register for an account and add your children to the account.

Please ensure that your order is placed by 10am on a Thursday for the following week. Good Lookin Cookin are unable to accept orders after this deadline.

\*Please note that orders for the first week back after a holiday need to be made by 10am on Thursday of the last week of the previous term. Good Lookin Cookin will send reminders to let you know when the deadline is approaching.

If your child has a food allergy, please contact Good Lookin Cookin to discuss their requirements.

If you do not order a meal then your child will need to bring a packed lunch with them from home.

## Frequently asked questions

*Because my Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2 child receives a free meal anyway, why should I apply for Pupil Premium Funding?*

When a parent applies for free school meals, they are asked for their National Insurance number. If at any point earnings drop below the threshold that is set, they will be informed of their eligibility. In the event of a change in circumstances, applying for free school meals may be low on the priority list for families who suddenly find themselves in difficult times and therefore families miss out on this benefit. If you think that you might be eligible please do check.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

The school receives a pupil premium grant for every child who is eligible for pupil premium free school meals. This grant is used to support children's learning in school. More information about how the school uses the Pupil Premium Grant can be found on our school website.

<https://weltonstmarysacademy.co.uk/pupil-premium/>

We would actively encourage parents to apply for Pupil Premium free school meals to see if you are eligible

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

*Will others know that I have applied?*

As a school we do not receive information about your application, just your child's name if they are eligible. This information is treated sensitively and children are not aware of which children are in receipt of the pupil premium grant.

*What if I don't qualify at the present time?*

If you apply for Pupil Premium free school meals but are unsuccessful, please do let us know if you need additional help towards providing food for your family. As a school we work closely with the church and the food larder that they run. The community larder supports the families in our community who are "Just About Managing" (JAMS) and can provide food for families during tricky times.

*My child is in Key Stage 2 and I don't qualify for a free school meal- How do I order?*

We encourage all children to have a school meal at lunchtime. The meals are carefully nutritionally balanced in line with government requirements and provide valuable fuel for learning as well as being delicious! Log on to the Good Lookin Cookin website, set up an account, add your children, place your order by the order deadline of Thursday 10am for the following week and pay on line.

\*Please note that orders for the first week back after a holiday need to be made by 10am on Thursday of the last week of the previous term. Good Lookin Cookin will send reminders to let you know when the deadline is approaching.

If you require any further information about school meals please don't hesitate to contact us.