

Leeds School Meals Strategy



Transforming school food and drink in partnership

Three easy steps to getting free school meals

Information from the Leeds School Meals Team, working in partnership with Leeds Benefit Service.

1. Am I entitled to Free School Meals?

If you are a parent, guardian or foster carer who has children in full time school education and you get one of the following benefits.

- Income Support, Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance, Guarantee Credit, OR
- If you are over 16, still at school and claim Income Support in your own right then the answer is yes you are entitled to Free School Meals.

You are also entitled if you come under any of the following.

- If you get Child Tax Credit only and your Annual Taxable Income is £15,595 or less.
- If you are a full time student.
- If you work less than 16 hours a week.
- If you are unable to work due to disability.

If you are not sure what your Taxable Income is please call the Inland Revenue Helpline on 0845 300 3900.

Are you living with your own parents or close relatives, or just staying with friends? If yes, you are still eligible for Free School Meals for your children but you will need to fill out an application form and mark on it that it is for Education Benefits only. Call into any One Stop Centre or call Leeds Benefit Service (LBS) on 0845 127 0113.

2. Make a benefit claim with Leeds Benefits Service

If you are already getting help with your rent or Council Tax, getting free school meals for other children, or if you are a registered Asylum Seeker there are no forms to fill in. LBS will automatically award Free School Meals for any children starting school or going up to high school and will also let the school know in writing. If you do not hear from LBS immediately, please call them on 0845 127 0113.

3. Final step

Once you have been told you qualify, please contact the school and tell the secretary that you would like your child to start taking free meals. They should already have the details and there is no need to inform anyone else. Schools are able to provide sample menus, so if you would like one please ask at reception. Free School Meals are good for your children and great for you.