

Children & Adults Services
schoolfood@southwark.gov.uk

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Ref: FHSSM

Dear Parent or Carer,

Apply for free healthy secondary school meals scheme now

We offer free healthy secondary school meals.

Bacon's College invites you to apply, if your household is eligible.

Apply for free healthy secondary school meals by completing [this application form](#)

The scheme is for secondary school pupils:

- from families who get Universal Credit
- and **who are not currently eligible for government benefits-related free school meals (FSM)** if their household income is **more than £7,400 per year**

You need to show that your household gets or has recently applied for or will move to Universal Credit.

Find out more about this scheme at: www.southwark.gov.uk/secondary-meals

Important information about eligibility for free school meals

If you have not moved to Universal Credit

You can apply for the scheme if you provide evidence of your upcoming move to Universal Credit (such as a letter) from a previous benefit.

These benefits include:

- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

Getting Southwark free healthy secondary school meals **will not** affect any government benefits you get or are entitled to.

Question	Answer
How does the scheme work in school?	The daily lunch meal allowance will be allocated to each eligible pupil using a cashless payment system. Pupils will be informed how the system works by schools.
If my child already gets government benefits related free school meals (FSM), do I need to apply for this Southwark Council scheme too?	No. But do apply if your eligibility for government benefits related free school meals changes in the future.
My child doesn't live in Southwark, but does go to a Southwark school, can I apply for this Southwark Council scheme?	Yes.
Are Year 7 to Year 13 students included?	Yes.
Can my child spend their meal allowance at morning and afternoon break?	No, only at lunchtime
Can my child use this allowance for packed lunches?	No, the allowance can only be used for food provided by school at lunchtime.
Can my child use any unspent allowance on following days?	No, daily unspent allowance balances are not carried forward.
Will my child be identified as getting free healthy secondary school meals?	No. All mainstream Southwark secondary schools use cashless payments, so your child will not be identifiable at the till or in the dining room.
What evidence of my household getting Universal Credit will I have to provide?	You'll need to provide the school with one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recent bank statement with Universal Credit deposit evidence • screenshot of current Universal Credit portal account • letter confirming family are supported by the Council due to NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds) (if waiting to transition to national benefits-related FSM) • Evidence of upcoming move to Universal Credit (i.e. letter)
Will my child receive meal vouchers during holidays?	No.