

Free School Meals

Benefits Related Vs Southwark Scheme

Benefits Related FSM

Your child may be able to get Benefits related Free School Meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State 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 - **your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)**

Registering for Free School Meals will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Southwark funded FSM

Southwark offer free healthy secondary school meals. 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.**

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

Free School Meals

How to apply

How to apply for Benefits related FSM

Registering is quick and easy, simply follow this link to make a new application

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>

You will be required to have the following information to hand:

- Your own name and date of birth
- Contact details
- National Insurance Number or National Asylum Seekers Number
- Child's name and date of birth
- School your child is attending/will attend.

How to apply for Southwark funded FSM

Southwark offer free healthy secondary school meals. 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.

Applications can be made using this online form- <https://forms.office.com/e/veRezTQvPr>

You need to show that your household gets (or has recently applied for or moved to) Universal Credit. You also need to provide your National Insurance number. **Please email one of the following documents to schooloffice@baconscollege.co.uk clearly stating your child's full name in the email so that we can pair this to the correct application:**

1. Recent bank statement with Universal Credit deposit evidence
2. Screenshot of current Universal Credit portal account- clearly showing your name and address
3. Letter confirming your family are supported by the Council due to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
4. Evidence of application for Universal Credit (including reference number)

Free School Meals FAQ

- **How do I know which one to apply for?**

We would urge all families to apply for government funded FSM in the first instance. If your application is **not successful**, we would then advise you apply for the Southwark scheme.

- **How do I know if my application is successful?**

Once you make an online application for **government funded FSM** you will be sent an email with your application outcome. We will also receive the same notification in the school office. On receipt of an approved application, we will update your child's eligibility on Arbor and send you an SMS to confirm that this is in place.

If you have made an application for **Southwark FSM**, on receipt of your supporting evidence, the school office will send you an SMS to confirm that your child's FSM is in place.

- **How much is the FSM allowance?**

Any pupil in receipt of FSM will receive an allowance of **£2.65** per school day. This is the same on both schemes.

- **Does my child receive a voucher during school holidays?**

Government funded- **Yes**

Southwark scheme- **No**

- **When can my child spend their allowance?**

Pupils can access their FSM allowance during the lunch break **only**. For any purchases made during their morning break, please ensure there are sufficient funds available on your Arbor account.

- **What can my child purchase with this allowance?**

Pupils can purchase the main “**meal deal**” for £2.65, which is covered in full by their allowance.

Meal Deal- This is a choice of **either** the main hot meal, or sandwich, with **either** a desert or small drink.

Hot meal- this option comes with cake and custard. If your child does not want cake and custard they can opt for a small cup drink. These are provided at the till by our catering staff.

Cold meal- All sandwiches that are included in the meal deal are clearly **labelled with a green sticker**. This option comes with cake **or** small cup drink. These are provided at the till by our catering staff.

Free School Meals

FAQ- continued

- **Where can my child use their allowance?**

Pupils can access their FSM allowance in either the main canteen, or at any of our snack sheds located in our playgrounds.

- **Can my child purchase additional items?**

Yes- if a pupil wishes to purchase additional items such as bottled/ canned drinks, or sweet snacks, this will be an **additional charge** and will be deducted from your Arbor account.

- **Can my child purchase snacks with their allowance?**

No- FSM are designed to ensure that all eligible pupils are receiving a healthy school meal. Pupils will not be able to purchase only sweet items using their allowance.

- **Can my child use any unspent allowance the following day?**

No- the £2.52 allowance is set per day and cannot be carried over if not accessed.

- **How does my child use their allowance?**

Using our cashless catering system, pupils use their biometric thumb print, or PIN (if set up) to make all purchases. All pupils who are in receipt of FSM will be identified on the catering system and their allowance will be automatically deducted at the point of purchase. If additional items have been purchased, the remaining funds will be deducted from your Arbor account. If sufficient funds are not available, the additional items may be revoked at the till.

- **Can I set a spending cap on my child's account?**

Yes- if you wish for a cap to be set to keep control of your child's expenditure, please email the school office, stating your child's full name and the amount that you wish to set. This can be amended or removed at any time, should you request it. **Changes cannot be made to their FSM allowance, only for the funds available on your Arbor account.**

Please email schooloffice@baconscollege.co.uk should you have any further queries, and a member of our team will be able to help.

