



ST JAMES'
Church of England
Primary School



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Did you know for every child registered as entitled to Free School Meals, we get extra money from the government?

Claim now to make sure we don't miss out!

The government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called **pupil premium**.

For every child registered, St James' gets £1455 this year.

This money is needed so we can continue to fund learning support staff for our pupils, online learning resources such as NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars, and enriching activities like class trips and visitors. If you're registered for Free School Meals, you could also get help with the cost of school trips or music tuition.

We still need you to register for Free School Meals St James' CE Primary can benefit even if...

- your child has a packed lunch
- your child is having a free school dinner because they're in Foundation 2, Year 1 or Year 2

How do I claim Free School Meals?

1. First, check if you're entitled - you don't have to be unemployed to qualify. Students and people working less than 16 hours a week can also get Free School Meals. Take a look through the list at the end of this letter.
2. You may not need to fill in a full claim form. Everyone in Leeds already getting help with their rent or Council Tax will automatically be considered for Free School Meals. If you're already getting help and think you might qualify for Free School Meals but haven't heard, ring the Benefits Helpline on 0113 222 4404 and they'll tell you what you need to do.
3. If you haven't claimed in Leeds before, phone the Benefits Helpline for an application form. Alternatively call in and get one from any Council One Stop Centre. One Stop Centre staff can also help you fill the form in.
4. The claim form can also be completed online using [this form](#).



What are the benefits?

1. **Your child can have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime, saving you more than £450 a year in dinner money or saving you the hassle of preparing a packed lunch everyday.**
2. **Once you've been told you qualify for Free School Meals the Council will also consider you for a School Clothing Grant of up to £37.50 per child, even if you don't want your child to take the meals.**
3. **Getting Free School Meals will not affect any other benefits you are receiving and you can claim in confidence.**
4. **Most importantly, the school gets an extra £1455 to spend for every child that has a Free School Meal award in place, regardless of whether they take it up.**

We understand the reasons why some parents may not like to claim. Often people see claiming their entitlement to Free School Meals as 'charity' and would prefer to provide sandwiches etc. However, we can only claim the pupil premium on behalf of pupils who have a Free School Meal award in place.

Talk to us about claiming Free School Meals today.

Do I qualify?

Your child will qualify for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- 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 Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not 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)

