

## Can my child get free school lunches when they are older?

From September 2014, school lunches are free for all children up to the end of year 2. For children in year 3 and above there is a charge (currently £1.95 per lunch, for schools in the Wokingham school meals contract).

Some children are entitled to free school lunches after year 2 (right up until they leave school, including sixth form) if a parent receives one of the following:

- Universal credit
- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit\* and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit

\*If you continue to receive Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment stops or after you start to work fewer than 16 hours per week, your child would still be eligible for

free school lunches for this four week period.

If you receive any of these benefits, whatever the age of your child, please complete the 'Pupil Premium' section on the School Meals application form. This lets the school claim an extra £1300 a year from the Government. We will use this money to provide valuable support to your child's education such as extra tuition, classroom assistants, or after school activities.

If your child is in year 3 or above, the information on the application form will be used to check that they can have school lunches free of charge. If your child is still in the infants, we can check they can still have free meals when they move into year 3 (you will not need to make a new application).

Using the information you provide, we can make an automatic and confidential check. The school does not need to know, and you will not need to provide, any details about your benefits or income.

**Please note that the information about benefits and tax credits is accurate at the time of printing but as it depends on Government policy it may change in future.**

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Designed and printed by WBC Digital Solutions June 2014 (nh)



## Free School Lunches

**From September 2014, school lunch is free for every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.**

Register NOW if you want your child to have free school lunches, and save up to £370 a year\*

\*£1.95 per meal for children in years 3-6 but free for all children in years R-2 from September 2014.

## Why have school lunches?

School lunches provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal.

Research tells us that a school lunch can improve a child's concentration.

Each school lunch meets high nutritional standards set by the government.

Because of the benefits to young children's health and learning, school lunches are free for all children in infant classes from September 2014. All parents have to do is register with their child's school.

Menus are changed often, and examples can be viewed online at [www.mycaterlink.co.uk/wbc](http://www.mycaterlink.co.uk/wbc)

The registration form lets the school know how many lunches to make, and if any child has special dietary needs (whether these are cultural, religious, or health-related such as a food intolerance or allergy).

If you are on a low income and receive certain state benefits, there is another section on the form which you should complete. This lets the school claim extra government money (£1300 a year) to help your child's education. Your child may also be able to carry on with free lunches when they are older.

## Food for Life!

We can ensure your child has a healthy and nutritious lunch every school day.

Our lunches are cooked fresh daily by highly trained staff using seasonal ingredients from local and regional suppliers. We use Freedom Food Free Range Eggs, Red Tractor Meat and Organic Milk in our dishes.

Our menus are also awarded the Soil Association's Food for Life Catering Mark.

## How to apply -

1. Complete the form enclosed with this leaflet OR
2. Collect a form from your child's school OR
3. You can download and print a copy of the application form at [www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/meals/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/meals/)
4. Then email the completed form back to your child's school OR
5. Take a copy of the completed form to your child's school

## Can my child still bring a packed lunch?

Yes, they can, but we would encourage them to try a school lunch. This will give them a varied and balanced diet, and save you time and money.

**Please complete the registration form and return it to the school as soon as you can. This will help your school to claim the money it needs from government. It will also help us plan for the number of children who want school lunches from September.**

## For more information

Visit: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/meals/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/meals/)

Or call us on (0118) 974 6000

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