

Swanwick Hall School



**Free
School
Meals**



Are you entitled?

A lot of people don't apply for free school meals. That's why we are continuing with our campaign to encourage all families to register regardless of if they believe they may be eligible.

You don't need to worry about other children knowing your child gets free school meals. They are offered the same food and sit in the same area. Only the school, and in secondary schools the catering staff, will know. They don't have to have them every day, but it will save you money and time in making a packed lunch!

You could save £400 a year for each child and your children could benefit from a good hot meal at lunchtime. The school will benefit too as they'll get the pupil premium of £1,000 a year from the government for each child eligible for free school meals.

Free school meal entitlement

All children at Derbyshire schools, aged 5 to 18, can get free school meals if they qualify. If your child is aged 3 to 5 and at one of our nursery schools they are only able to have a free school meal if they stay for the whole day at school.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you (or the young person themselves, where appropriate) get any of the following:

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit (WTC) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) as assessed by HRMC
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Universal Credit has begun to be rolled out in Derbyshire and will affect all areas of Derbyshire by the end of 2018.

Most families will not be affected by the new criteria. Families who are currently claiming free school meals, but fail to meet the new criteria, will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period, even if they continue to appear as no longer eligible on future reports. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, pupils will keep their free school meal entitlement until the end of their current phase of education, that is, primary or secondary.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Apply for Free School Meals?

You can apply in any of the following ways;

- Visit Derbyshire County Council's website – www.derbyshire.gov.uk
- Download a form from the school website – www.swanwickhall.derbyshire.sch.uk

Do you have to be unemployed to qualify?

No – if you look at the criteria above, it explains if you are eligible or not.

Will people know that my child gets a Free School Meal?

No – your information is held on the school's dining room system but remains confidential. As our dining room operates a cashless system using biometric finger scans, the only way people will know is if you or your child tells them.

Can the school benefit?

Yes – for every child registered for Free School Meals, the school receives extra funding. This can be used to support children in a range of ways in school.

How much money can I save?

The current Free School Meal allowance for secondary school students is £2.40 per day (this may be subject to change from September).

Where can I get advice about Free School Meals?

If you want help completing the application form for Free School Meals, please contact school and speak to your child's Progress and Achievement Manager. You can also get additional information at www.derbyshire.gov.uk.