



Hoyland Springwood Primary School

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💻 www.hoylandspringwood.org
Headteacher: Mrs Jennifer Hunt
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Parker

Thursday 21st March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Free School Meals

All infant age pupils (Reception/Years 1 and 2) are entitled to receive a **universal** free school meal, because of their age. When your child goes into Year 3 (Key Stage 2), this entitlement stops, unless you make an application for a **Statutory** Free School Meal.

Children who are eligible for statutory free school meals, also receive a Pupil Premium, which is extra funding for schools to help boost their learning. They may also be eligible for a discount on School Trips.

You should apply to Barnsley Council for the entitlement by following the link :

[https://barnsley-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://barnsley-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20(1.0).wdf)

This link and additional information is available on the school website under the heading **Parent Information – Free School Meals** . Alternatively, you can contact BMBC on (01226) 787787.

If you have older children in school, you will still need to make a separate application for your younger child. Each entitlement is awarded on an individual basis.

We would actively encourage all parents to apply for free school meals if you believe you may be eligible. Even if you do not wish your child to receive a school meal, we ask you to complete the application form so that Hoyland Springwood School receives as much funding as possible.

If any support is needed to apply please don't hesitate to make an appointment with Mrs Sarah Johnson (PSA).

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Jennifer Hunt

Free School Meals – Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for Free School Meals? Anyone who thinks that they might be entitled to Free School Meals can apply.

Who is eligible for Free School Meals? The decision is made by the Local Authority who use information from the Department of Education checking system to determine eligibility. However some reasons could be the family is in receipt of certain benefits, the family is a low-income family or one or more children within the family is classed as a 'looked-after' child. **If you believe that you may qualify and be eligible for free school meals, you should apply.**

Why are there 2 different types of Free School Meal?

Universal Free School Meal - Set by the government to provide all children in Reception or Key Stage 1 (of Infant school age) with a free school meal.

Statutory Free School Meal -This must be applied for. Parents of children who attend Springwood School should make an application to BMBC.

My child brings a packed lunch. Why should I apply for Free School Meals? There are other advantages to being awarded Free School Meals. Your child would qualify for a free meal when we have themed school meal days throughout the year e.g. Christmas Lunch. They will also qualify for free school milk and may receive a reduction in any school trips. School will also receive pupil premium funding for all children who receive Free School Meals.

My older children already attend Springwood and receive free School meals. Do I still need to apply? Yes. An application must be made for each individual child. Please apply now, using the link at the bottom of the page.

My child is in Year 6. Is it worth applying for the last year? Yes. The entitlement does not end when your child moves to secondary school and they will continue to receive any benefits associated with Free School Meals at their new school. If your child is moving to a school in a different area (outside Barnsley), you may need to apply to that Local Authority for the benefit to continue. However, the benefit is usually honoured until the new application is made.

My child is in Reception/KS1 and already gets a free school meal. Should I apply? Yes. This is a universal free school meal. Your child may be eligible for statutory free school meals, free school milk and pupil premium funding. Please apply now online by following the link :

[https://barnsley-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://barnsley-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20(1.0).wdf)

How do I apply for free school meals? Follow the link above or alternatively, contact BMBC on (01226) 787787 and select option 3.

Can I track my application? Yes. You will be given a Form Reference when you begin your application. This reference can be used to track you application, using the same link for the online application.

+ Once your application has been considered, you will be notified by letter. BMBC will notify school, but you should also let the School Office know if your application is successful.