

3

THERE ARE **WAYS** YOUR CHILD CAN GET FREE SCHOOL MEALS



1 Targeted Free School Meals

Who gets it?

Children whose families receive Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less and certain benefits. If eligible, your child will receive free school meals throughout their school and further education up to age 19, extra funding to support your child's education and access to our Holiday Activities and Food programme. You need to apply and eligibility will be checked regularly.

2 Expanded Free School Meals

(NEW from
September 2026)

Who gets it?

From September 2026, children in households receiving Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 and some other qualifying benefits will be entitled to free school meals throughout their school and further education up to age 19. You need to apply, and annual eligibility checks will be made.

3 Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

Who gets it?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and 2. Every child gets a free meal automatically. Families who receive Universal Credit with children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still apply for benefits-based free school meals because, if eligible, your child's school could qualify for extra funding to support their education (Pupil Premium) and funded places on our Holiday Activities and Food programme.



ENTITLEMENTS	Targeted free school meals	Expanded free school meals	Universal infant free school meals
A meal in school through Key Stage 1	✓	✓	✓
A meal in school through Key Stage 2	✓	✓	✗
A meal in school through Key Stage 3 (up to the age of 19)	✓	✓	✗
Access to Holiday Activities and Food programme	✓	✗	✗
Pupil Premium to support your child's education	✓	✗	✗

Full details of eligibility for Universal Credit and benefits-related free school meals are available on our website.



WHY APPLY?

Even if your child gets meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2:

- You could unlock extra support for your child
- Schools receive extra funding
- You may get help during school holidays

**APPLY
TODAY**



www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals