

Contact information

If you need any more information or have any questions please contact us by either

- Writing to us

Free School Meals
Staffordshire County Council
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH

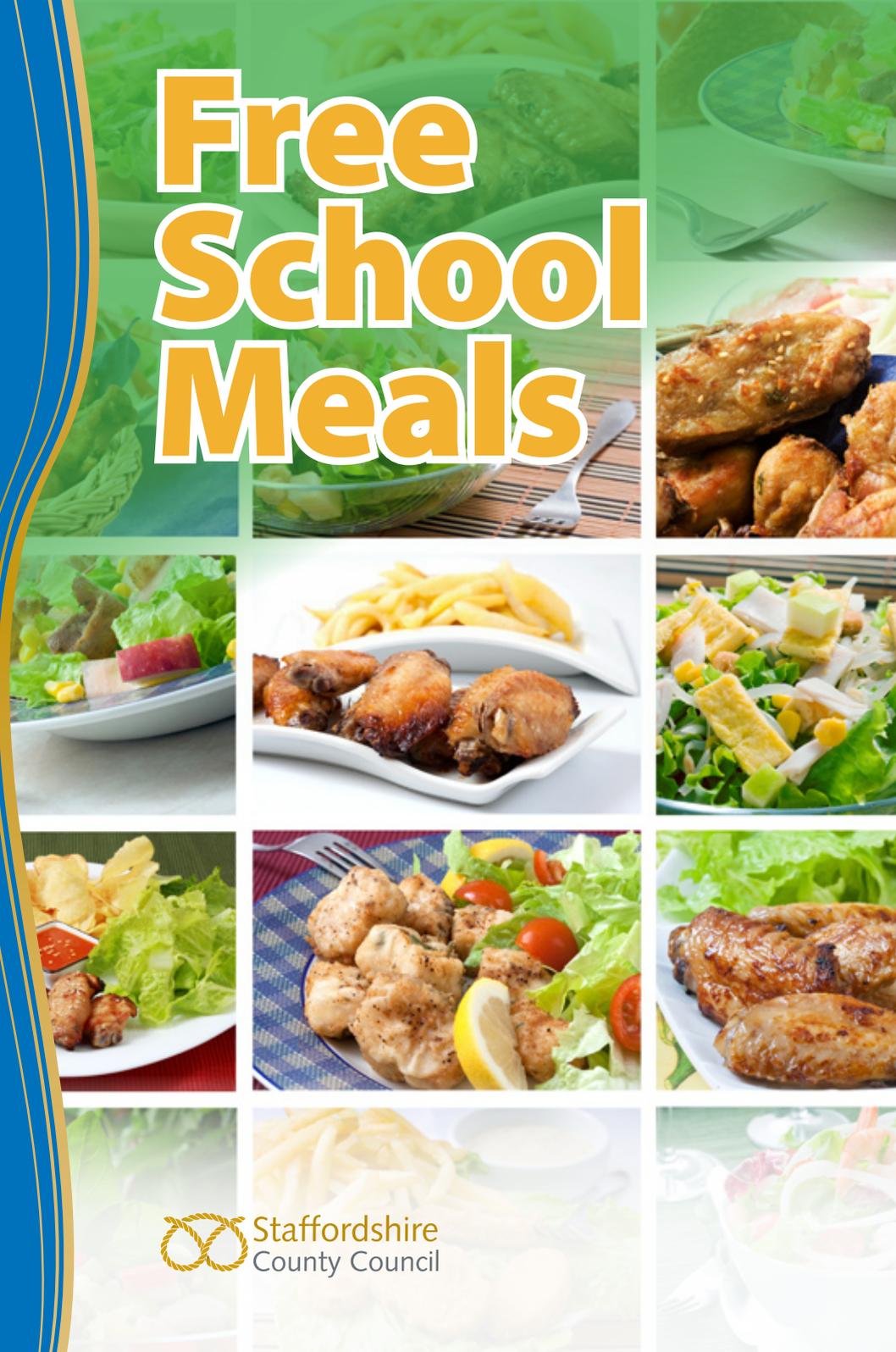
- Emailing us

freeschoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk

- Telephoning us

Call either 01785 278928 or 01785 278966

Free School Meals



Free School Meals

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who attend a Staffordshire school or sixth form and would normally be at school at lunch time (however this does not include colleges). Any student who does not live in Staffordshire but is attending a Staffordshire school can also apply. If you live in Staffordshire but attend a non Staffordshire school such as in Stoke or Shropshire, you should contact the council for that area.

By claiming free school meals you can save time and money, and make sure that your child eats well at lunchtime. Even if you don't want your child to have the meals, making a claim will help the school as they receive extra funding for each child registered for them. Additionally if your child is of secondary school age (between the ages of 11 and 16, in years 7 to 11) when have registered for free school meals your child then has an additional entitlement to free home to school transport – for more information visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy

Who can get free school meals?

You can claim free school meals for your child if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child tax credit with an annual income of less than £16,190. **Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of their income level, does not qualify**
- The 'Guarantee' element of the State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

How do I apply?

It's easy either

- Ask at school – they should be able to give you a form to fill in.
- Print a form from the web – forms can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- Contact us and we will send you a form to fill in

You should complete the form, filling in the names of all of your children that you want to claim for, and then either return the form to the school to forward on or send the form to us at the address below.

We can now check to see if you are entitled to claim Free School Meals by using the National Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service – in the majority of cases we no longer need paper proof of the benefits you receive. By signing the form you are agreeing to allow us to check this service.

Important additional information – please read before completing your application form

Remember, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of their income level, does not qualify.

The parent/carer who is receiving the named benefit needs to complete the form in their name and then sign the form. Also, the parent/carer address needs to match that of the child for which you are claiming.

To process your claim you must complete your date of birth and national insurance number (or NASS number if are claiming under the basis of receiving support under the Immigration and Asylum Act). Without this information, we cannot deal with your application.

If our check of the National Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service shows that you are not entitled, we will ask you to provide recent written proof of your receiving one of the named qualifying benefits.