



## Free School Meals (FSM) Policy for Sixth Form Students

1. Students aged 16, 17 or 18 can claim free school meals if they or their parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits;
  - Income support
  - Income based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
  - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided that they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and do not have an annual gross income of more than £16,190.00 as assessed by HMRC)
  - Working Tax Credit Run On
  - Universal Credit (UC with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 for each year (after tax and not including any benefits they get)
2. A student is only eligible to receive a free meal when they, or a responsible adult on their behalf, have made a successful application to the local authority. Students may be required to provide evidence of the award.
3. Students must also satisfy the residency criteria. Students must have the legal right to be resident in the United Kingdom at the start of their study programme.

Eligibility criteria introduced under Universal Credit from 1 April 2018 will result in some households becoming eligible for free meals and others falling outside of the eligibility criteria. The Department for Education has put transitional protection arrangements in place to provide certainty for families and ensure they do not experience a sudden loss of free meals.

The protection arrangements apply as follows:

- All students already receiving free meals from 1 April 2018 will continue to receive free meals until March 2025 and then until the end of the course they are enrolled on at this point. This will apply even if their household earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.

- Any student who becomes eligible for free meals after the threshold has been introduced will also continue to receive free meals until March 2025 and then until the end of the course they are enrolled on. This will apply even if they subsequently become ineligible during this period because their household earnings rise above the new threshold.

Students transferring in from another school may be required to obtain evidence of FSM eligibility from their previous school or local authority. Once UC is fully rolled out, any students receiving free meals who no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point due to earning above the threshold will continue to receive protection until they complete their 16 to 19 funded education.

Free school meals will be supplied through the Academy's restaurant facilities.

1. Students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) will be entitled to a small breakfast with a drink, or large breakfast without a drink and a meal deal for lunch. Any additional items must be purchased via the student. Please ensure that there are additional funds added to the student's WisePay lunch account if additional items are required.
2. No re-imbursement will be made for any other food items.

To apply for free school meals please follow this link;

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium>