



# CAMPSMOUNT

September 2023

Dear Parent,

## **Applications for Free school meals**

With the cost of living rising it is important to know that if you receive certain benefits you may be eligible to receive free school meals for your child/children.

Circumstances can change for anyone, as the enormous impact from the pandemic continues to prove. Some families can suddenly find themselves trying to cope with a new financial strain and pressure, perhaps as a result of a stressful new situation: separation, loss of a job, decreased working hours, illness etc. If your household income is low or has recently decreased, your child may well qualify for Free School Meals. Indeed, over the last two years, we have seen a significant rise in successful applications. Free School Meals applications do not travel over county council boundaries so if you have moved council areas to attend Campsmount please reapply to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

## **Who can get free school meals?**

### **Eligibility criteria**

Parents or guardians are entitled to get free school meals for their children if they receive any of the following:


- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you are a foster carer, and receiving a fostering allowance, you are not eligible to claim free school meals for those children you are fostering from school year 3 and above.

## **You must be the named recipient of the benefit to make the free school meals application**

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If you are eligible and would like more information or help with your application, please contact the school office and we will send off your form for you, to take the hassle away from you, our busy parents and carers. Please call 01302 700002 should you need any assistance.

To apply, please click on the following link: [Free school meals application - Doncaster Council](#)

**It is important to apply as this registers your child for the pupil premium.** This is extra funding available to schools for children who qualify for free school meals via the eligibility criteria. This provides school with extra money that we utilise to support your child with additional educational opportunities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

If you do not apply, your child's school will miss out on this funding which could go towards equipment, resources, trips or uniform discounts.

If your child prefers to take a packed lunch or make other arrangements, you will still need to register for free school meals for your school to receive the pupil premium funding.

We also work closely with our local food banks, who continue to offer vital support to families.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

As a school we strive to offer additional educational opportunities to all students and do not want home financial difficulties to be a barrier.

We are here to support. Please contact your child's Progress Leader to discuss these matters further in confidence.

Kind regards,

Mr I Midgley  
Principal