

Waltham Forest Council
The Benefits Service



Free School meals



www.walthamforest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



School meals are a great way to be sure your child is eating a healthy and well-balanced meal during the school day.

School meals meet the Government's rigorous nutritional standards, which have been put in place to make meals healthier and give children what they need to develop, grow and lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

Your child is entitled to free school meals if they go to school in Waltham Forest, and you or your partner get one of the following incomes:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS)
- Support from the local authority Social Services Asylum Team (SSAT)
- Working Tax Credit for four weeks after your employment finishes



- Child Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that is £16,190 or less
- You can also receive free school meals if you are a pupil receiving Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance in your own right.

Schools outside Waltham Forest

If you live in Waltham Forest but your child goes to a school outside Waltham Forest, please ask that Council how to apply for free school meals.

How to apply for Free School Meals

You can apply:

- Online, by filling in a claim form for Free School Meals on the Council website at **www.walthamforest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals**.
- By calling us on 020 8496 3000 and selecting the free school meals option.
- By visiting our Waltham Forest Direct (WFD) shop.

WFD Walthamstow Shop

137 Hoe Street
Walthamstow, E17 4RT

Opening times:

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6pm
Saturday 9am – 1pm.

We will only ask you to provide evidence of your income if we are unable to get confirmation ourselves.

We will assess your application and inform you and your child's school of the decision.

You must tell us if your income changes so we can see if you can still get free school meals/housing benefit/council tax benefit.

If your child moves to another school you must tell us straight away and you may need to complete a new application form.

- if you are also claiming Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit you can apply for Free School Meals at the same time. Just tick the Free School Meals box on the Housing and Council Tax Benefit claim form on the Council website at **www.walthamforest.gov.uk/benefitsonline**.



Help with rent and/or Council Tax payments

Are you:

- On a low income, employed or self-employed?
- On disability benefits?
- On pension credit?

You can increase your income by claiming help with your rent payments and/or Council Tax payments.

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit are not just for people who are receiving benefits. People who are working or on a low income may also qualify.



You can claim Housing Benefit if you pay rent:

- to the Council
- a private landlord
- to a Housing Association or a Co-op
- as a boarder (includes some meals)
- as a sub-tenant
- to live in a hostel

Liable for Council Tax?

If you are an owner-occupier or a tenant and are liable to pay Council Tax, you can claim Council Tax Benefit.

Free school meals only

Even if you do not pay rent/council tax yourself, you can still apply for free school meals.

For more information about Waltham Forest Council Benefits Service please visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/benefits or call 020 8496 3000