

What Happens Next?

Your entitlement will begin on the day your fully completed application form with the required proof of eligibility is received at the Customer Contact Centre not the date you become eligible to any of the stated benefits. Cheshire East is **unable to backdate claims** for Free School Meals to cover unpaid dinner money, or to refund any dinner money paid prior to the date of a successful application. A letter of entitlement will be issued to you by this office.

How Are The Arrangements Reviewed?

Eligibility for free school meals is reviewed periodically and providing you are still eligible your claim will be renewed automatically. It may be necessary for parents/ carers to re-apply completing an application form; this will be sent out to you if required. It is the responsibility of the claimant and not that of the school to ensure that we have the correct information.

You must notify the Cheshire East Customer Contact Centre:-

If you stop receiving any of the stated benefits
or commence receiving Working Tax Credit

Your child changes school or leaves school

You change your address

If you do not notify Cheshire East of any changes in your circumstances then you may be invoiced for the cost of any free school meals taken that you were not entitled to.

BEXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Blackhill Lane
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 9DB

01565 632816

Email:

admin@nexton.cheshire.sch.uk

Web: www.bexton.info



FREE SCHOOL MEALS INFORMATION 2017—18

Tel: 01565 632816

Free School Meals

From September 2014 there will be two free school meal schemes;

Universal Infant Free School Meals

and

Income Related Free School Meals.

Central Government is introducing a new initiative to provide free school meals to all children attending Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This is called Universal Infant Free School Meals, and you may see the abbreviation UIFSMs used.

However, **it is vital that families still register with the Free School Meals Team**, if they meet the criteria set out below, even if their child falls within the UIFSMs classes as above. This is important to the funding schools receive, as a specific fund called Pupil Premium is generated by this registered eligibility. This will amount to £1,300 per eligible pupil. This funding is used to support eligible pupils with their education and some school trips.

Please be assured that staff at Bexton Primary School do not receive information about your individual circumstances from Cheshire East. We are simply notified of eligibility start and end dates. Your child/children cannot be identified in any way to other pupils. If you have any queries regarding this infor-

mation please speak to Mrs Griffiths, our School Business Manager.

Cheshire East Council will continue to award free school meals to the families that receive the qualifying incomes as outlined below, and whose children attend a Cheshire East school.

- Income support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed **£16,190**.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals.

If you have recently become unemployed or have reduced your working hours and have been granted the four week working tax credits run on, then you may be entitled to free school

meals. **Please call the Cheshire East Schools Team on 0300 123 5012 for advice.**

If You Think You Are Eligible

All you have to do is phone Cheshire East on the number below and they will let you know if the children in your care are entitled to Free School Meals.

Free School Meals Helpline - 0300 123 5012.

Further information on free school meals, including the online form is available on the link below.

[Free school meals information online](#)

Cheshire East will assess your claim using their eligibility checker to confirm your entitlement; if successful your claim will begin the same day. If your claim is not successful or if they require any further information they will contact you by phone or email.

Please have your National Insurance number available when you contact the Schools team.