



Alcester Street
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20/09/2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

IF YOU ARE ENTITLED WE NEED YOU TO CLAIM EVEN IF YOUR CHILD IS HAVING AN INFANT FREE MEAL

Changes to free school meal eligibility under Universal Credit

The eligibility criteria for free school meals have changed. This letter explains the changes and how they might affect you.

What are the new eligibility criteria?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

I don't currently claim free school meals

FSM application process is now an online only process which is available at www.oldham.gov.uk/fsm

You will need to supply supporting documentation and upload on the council's website (you can take photo's and upload), this is requested after you have successfully completed all the eligibility questions. You are more than welcome to come in to school and use a computer to do this.

Parents do not need to apply for free school meals if they are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. The only parents who may need to apply are those feel they may be eligible but are not in receipt of either benefit. An example of this could be a parent who is on a low income and still lives

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M R Buckley
Head of School Yew Tree: Mr R Bhatti
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with their own parents (ie child's grandparents) and therefore do not claim for Either Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction. Pupils who live in the Manchester City Council area who attend an Oldham school can also apply online.

If you are eligible, we will be notified and your child will receive free school meals and the school will receive extra funding

I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but don't meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The rollout period is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

Where can I get more information?

If you need any further information or want help completing the form online in school, please feel free to come into school and speak to the office staff who can assist you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S D Mould
Business Manager

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