

# Free School Meals

The cost of living is something that is constantly being discussed. As a school we will be exploring what the cost of living means on a day to day basis for students, but what this also looks like over the year. Times are hard and may become even more difficult in months to come. There is a variety of support out there and we will continue to listen and seek worthwhile opportunities to make sure no child is left behind or without the basics they need.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR DISADVANTAGED PUPILS

### - HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

  
Department  
for Education



### Contact details

You can contact the Free School Meals Team by email at [FSM@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:FSM@wakefield.gov.uk)

Free School Meals  
County Hall

Bond Street

Wakefield

WF1 2QL

[hst@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:hst@wakefield.gov.uk)  
01924 305 061

**OACf**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- 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 guaranteed 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 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The following organisations can support colleagues, parents and your wider school community during a time of financial hardship.

#### Local Support

- St Swithuns Community Centre - Community pantry
- Wakefield Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) free on 0800 144 8848 or visit [www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)
- Cashwise on 01977 724651 or visit [www.getcashwise.co.uk](http://www.getcashwise.co.uk)

#### National Support

- [Turn2Us](#) – an organisation dedicated to helping young people budget, make better financial decisions and access grants that they might be eligible for.
- [Citizens Advice](#) – there is a dedicated page to support with the cost of living crisis.
- [Martin Lewis' MoneySavingExpert](#) – tips and guidance for making the most of your money, including breakdowns of the latest financial updates and what they mean for you.
- [The Trussell Trust](#) – to help locate local food banks for those in need.

### Other benefits

You may also receive help towards residential trips, school visits or music lessons. If you feel you have missed any of these opportunities please contact your child's Learning Manager.

### How long will it take to process the claim?

We aim to process applications within 5-10 working days.

Once we have determined the outcome of the application we will advise the school (normally by phone) and you will be issued with a letter.

Schools will ensure this information is treated in the strictest confidence and handled sensitively.

### St Swithuns Community Pantry

- We are a community pantry that offers shopping choices of frozen, dry and fresh produce each week. We also stock: cleaning, personal and ambient products. We do not choose the shopping, the members do – allowing them to cater for their individual, or family, needs and preferences.
- We are a member focused food provision where there is no limit to membership time.
- We receive some donated food from Warburton's, Asda and various supermarket customer donations. We purchase food from Fair Share so that amazing quality food doesn't go to landfill.
- Anyone who is feeling the pinch of living at present can join, we are all inclusive and do not discriminate against anyone. To join, we require a referral from a professional body (CAB, school, WDH, NHS etc).
- The weekly shop costs £5 and on average this enables the member to receive products at cost price up to £30+.
- We are open every Tuesday to Friday and is supported by volunteers.

### Current support

- All students have access to free breakfast from 8am in the Bistro.
- Free School Meals spend can be accessed at lunch time only.
- All enrichment activities are free to all students.
- All Year 7 students are provided with uniform.
- All Year 7 students will be provided with the essential equipment (this was provided to all students in school last year).
- Hardship fund can be accessed to support for purchasing uniform and equipment.
- MyOn library was purchased so all students can access books at home or at school.
- Most trips in school have been free to all students. We ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost of the trips.
- DT - all essential costs are met by the school.
- Period products are free for students to access throughout the day in various places around school.
- Staff are on hand to help with any questions or to discuss support in the strictest confidence.
- Music lessons are free to all Pupil Premium students.

There are many other support mechanisms such as one to one tutors and other applications which aid to remove barriers to learning and help students flourish which can be reviewed in our Pupil Premium policy.



**HELP  
HUB**  
To find your local hub visit  
[www.wakefield.gov.uk/hub](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/hub)

**Do you live in  
the Wakefield district  
and access government benefits?**

You may be entitled to other benefits and these could be backdated