

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am writing to you to make you aware of the borough guidance on applying for free school meals and answer some frequently asked questions.

What are free school meals?

Free school meals entitles your child to receive a free lunch every day at school. At Leytonstone School this equates to £2.56 per day which can be spent at lunchtime.

Over one academic year this is the equivalent saving of £486.40 just on school meals for one child.

Who is eligible?

Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you/your partner receive one of the following incomes:

- Income support
- Universal credit
- Income based jobseekers allowance
- Income related employment and support allowance
- The guarantee credit element of state pension (NASS)
- Support from the local authority social services asylum team (SSAT)
- Child tax credit provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that is £16,190 or less – this figure changes each year
- Working tax credit for four weeks after your employment finishes

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How can I apply?

You must apply through the Waltham Forest Free School Meal service which can be found at <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/free-school-meals>

This page has lots of information about eligibility and the online application form.

If you have any specific questions or would like more information please contact fsm@leytonstonstone.waltham.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,
Lisa Norman
Office Manager