



## Our aim....

There are nearly 63,000 pupils in East Sussex, however only 8,500 children currently get free school meals. We think there are many more who could access these.

We would like to help families whose children could get free school meals to apply for them.

## Why apply?

- ◆ School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal
- ◆ Research shows that a school dinner can help concentration levels
- ◆ Menus are changed often and can be viewed online at [eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/download.htm](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/download.htm)

## How to apply

You can apply electronically at

[eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free/form.htm](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free/form.htm)

You can download an application form and:

- ◆ Take the form into your child's school
- or
- ◆ Send it to the Admissions and Transport team (address on back page)

## For more information

### Visit:

[eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free)

Or call us on: 0345 60 80 190

Admissions & Transport Team  
County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1SG

### Getting more copies of this leaflet

You can get all our leaflets in large print, easy read format, in Braille, on audio tape or CD, or in other languages. Please phone the Admissions Team 0345 60 80 190. They are also available in PDF form, which you can download from our website at [eastsussex.gov.uk](http://eastsussex.gov.uk)

East Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
Lewes BN7 1UE  
Phone: 0345 60 80 190  
Fax: 01273 481261  
[eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus)

# Free School Meals

## Are you missing out?



**If you receive benefits,  
your child could be  
tucking into a tasty free  
school meal.**

**Don't miss out – apply  
now!!**

## The way families can apply for free school meals in East Sussex is fast and easy.

Don't miss out – apply now!

**Did you know that** in most cases, you now don't need to give paper proof of benefit\* when applying for free school meals?

East Sussex County Council can check if your child can get free school meals by checking your:

- ◆ Name
- ◆ Date of birth
- ◆ National insurance number or national asylum seekers' service number

The above details must be for the person receiving the qualifying benefit – there is a list of these on the next page.

\*sometimes we may need to ask you to provide paper proof of benefit

## Can my child get free school meals?

You must receive one of the following:

- ◆ Income support
- ◆ Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- ◆ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,110\*\*
- ◆ The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit

\*\*If you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the 4 week period immediately after your employment stops, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your child would also be eligible for free school meals for this 4 week period only.

This information is accurate at the time of printing but is subject to Government policy so may change in the future.



## You must also:

- ◆ Have a child in full time education at a state school



## The new checking system means that:

- ◆ ***You don't have to show paper proof of benefit***
- ◆ ***You don't have to reapply every year***
- ◆ ***Your child will get their free school meals sooner because the process is faster***

***Your information is confidential***