



Dear Parents and Carers

Telford & Wrekin Council have anticipated that as a result of COVID, more families will now reach the threshold for Free School Meals. If your circumstances have recently changed you may find that your child is now entitled to free school meals.

When in school, children who receive free school meals are entitled to a daily spend of £2.50. Money is credited to their account each day and they can spend it on whatever they want at lunchtime in the school canteen, in the same way as if a parent or carer had added the funds. All children at Charlton are encouraged to make healthy choices and can take advantage of the hot or cold meal deals which include a main course, snack or a drink for £2.50.

Did you know that children who receive free school meals are also entitled to a number of other benefits, including free music tuition and support with the costs of revision guides?

If you are not currently in receipt of Free School Meals and you fall in to one of the categories below, please apply online at:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20028/school_meals/9/free_school_meals/3

Your child, or children, may qualify for Free School Meals if you meet the following criteria:

- you or your partner (if you have one) have a child for whom you receive Child Benefit and who is attending a school or college in Telford and Wrekin, and you get any of the following:
- Universal Credit and your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get),
- Income Support,
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance,
- 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),
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit),
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2025. This is linked to the expected roll-out date of Universal Credit.

We know how challenging things are at the moment and are doing everything we can to support our families. If you have any further questions or need support to complete your application, please contact your child's Pastoral Manager.

Yours sincerely
Miss A Prosser