

Entitlement to income linked Free School Meals

Am I entitled to income linked Free School Meals?

If you would like to check if you are entitled to income linked Free School Meals (FSM), please complete the Free School Meals Eligibility Checker here: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/> . You can also use this link to apply: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> .

The biggest barrier that we have observed to students claiming FSM is that there is a concern that a child may stand out as different because of this. At Wallington County Grammar School (WCGS) we have worked hard to ensure that any student who has the right to claim FSM is now unidentifiable, meaning there is no difference between someone who obtains meals in the School Café using their own personal funding or who uses the funding provided by the government. With the new Cashless Catering system, socio-economic circumstances are irrelevant as the student's account is automatically topped-up on a daily basis. Any food or refreshments purchased in the café are paid for by using a student's finger pattern. The daily allowance of £3.70 for Free School Meals, this amount can be topped up via your child's lunch account using the ParentPay system.

If a student is eligible for FSM, they are entitled to receive the following:

A LUNCHTIME HOT MAIN MEAL AND DESSERT

This can include one Hot Main meal from the daily lunchtime menu and one choice of daily dessert, fresh fruit or yoghurt.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a pupil is unable to take their FSM food allowance during the hours of the lunchtime break, they will be able to choose from either; two hot break time food options during the morning break time or a Sandwich. Just to clarify, a Sandwich should be only given as a FSM as an exception if a hot food offering is unable to be taken, and should not be part of the normal FSM lunchtime allowance.

Exceptional circumstances may include, for example, having to leave school early for an appointment or taking part in a lunchtime leisure activity that covers the duration of the lunchtime period. In this case, the pupil would need to have confirmation of this reason signed off by a member of staff.

EXCLUSIONS

The FSM allowance does not include any drink, confectionery, snack or stationery items.

These items can be purchased outside of the FSM allowance, provided the student has sufficient funds available in their ParentPay account to make the purchase.

For further information please visit the school website:
<https://www.wcgs-sutton.co.uk/parents-carers-information/free-school-meals-eligibility>

Uniform Voucher

If you are entitled to income linked Free School Meals, you may also be eligible to claim a voucher from the School that entitles your son to essential items of school uniform free of charge.

Please see the documents 'School Uniform Voucher 2024e - Guidance Notes' in the Year 7 Induction Pack of documents available to read on the School website.

If you are eligible, you must complete the School Uniform Voucher Application Form in order to be considered for this.

School Trips

In addition, if you are entitled to income linked Free School Meals, the School will cover the cost of your child's educational visits automatically and confidentially, and may also be able to assist with other non-curriculum based trips.

We strongly urge parents to accept the support of Free School Meals if you are entitled to this. By doing this it means that the school will receive appropriate funding to ensure that we can support students who might otherwise miss out on all the great opportunities that are on offer to them.