



Ambleside Academy

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Principal: Ms J Bromley

National FSM Voucher Scheme - frequently asked questions.

I have a child/children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and received a paper voucher for £20 from school but haven't had another, why is this?

We gave these out to parents/carers with children in these year groups to reflect universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) entitlement. The new scheme is only for pupils of benefits related free school meals as per the Government guidelines.

What is the difference between UIFSM and benefits related free school meals?

Universal Infant free schools meals – Is currently given to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 regardless of parental income.

Benefits related free school meals – Is only awarded if parents meet the criteria listed below and is open to all year groups (except Nursery) in school.

What is the criteria for benefits related free school meals?

You have a child/children who

- are aged 16 or under and attend a Nottingham city school

And you, the parent or carer, receive at least one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Support under of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 section 95
- Universal Credit (income thresholds apply - currently an earned net annual income of £7,400.00)

I think I meet the criteria for benefits related free school meals, if I apply and am entitled will I receive a voucher?

Yes, as soon as we have been informed by the Nottingham City pupil benefits team and add it to our system you will receive a voucher for £15 per week per eligible child until the Government ends or amends the scheme. Please provide us with an email address as this is the best way to get your voucher.

How do I apply for benefits related free school meals?

You can either;

Download a form from the Nottingham City pupil benefits website page

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/education-and-schools/benefits-for-school-aged-children/free-school-meals-and-free-milk/>

Or collect a form from school (Located in the reception area).

You will need to complete and sign this and then either return it to school or email to pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

I have a question about my eligibility, how do I contact pupil benefits?

The best way in the current situation is to email them at pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or you can find their contact details at

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/education-and-schools/benefits-for-school-aged-children/free-school-meals-and-free-milk/>

I don't meet the criteria but due to a reduced income I am struggling to provide my child/children a lunch, what can I do?

We are able to prepare and deliver packed lunches to certain pupils in order to support their welfare.

Please contact us by sending us an email to admin@ambleside.nottingham.sch.uk or calling 0115 9003610 if you wish to be considered.