



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr Paul Willerton

Dear Parent/Carer

October 2020

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – COULD YOU BE ELIGIBLE?

The BBC recently published an article that centered around the fact that parents who previously could not apply for Free School Meals may now be able to if their financial situation has changed.

Parents who did not previously qualify for free school meals but whose income has reduced or stopped due to the coronavirus crisis, may qualify based on their new financial circumstances. Parents and carers should check the St Helens Council website for how to apply.

Your child will be eligible for free school meals if you (or your partner) are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and your annual gross income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) is not more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit and net earnings, from your last assessment period, is not more than £616.67 per month. (If your household's net earnings change each month then they should not exceed £1,233.34 in the last two consecutive months or £1,850 in the past 3 months).

The link for applying for Free School Meals in St Helens is below:

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals-pupil-premium/>

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's respective year team should you require any further information.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Willerton
Principal

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