

Why Fork Out?

By registering for free school meals you could save up to £350 per child per year. Yet every year, thousands of families across the country miss out on free school meals. Don't let yours be one of them!

If you are the parent or carer of a child who attends a County Durham school, they may qualify for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits or tax credits:

- Pension Credit (guarantee element)
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and you have a gross annual household income of no more than £16,190
- Eligible Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

Note: You cannot get free school meals if your Tax Credit award includes any amount of Working Tax Credit.

To apply, simply, pick up an application form from your child's school, or download one from the Durham County Council website at www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Completed forms need to be returned to your child's school with proof of benefit entitlement.

If you have any questions you can contact the school meals team on **03000 268 002 / 003**.

If you're not sure what benefits you're getting, or you have a benefit query or need advice on any benefit problem you can contact Durham County Council Welfare Rights Service by telephone or e-mail:

Telephone: **03000 268 968** Monday to Friday from 9am to 12 noon

E-mail: welfare.rights@durham.gov.uk