

# Free School Meals

## Food for thought – Suffolk schools are missing out on £3million – they need your help!

There are around 3,000 young people in Suffolk that are eligible for a free school meal but not currently claiming one. If they all claimed the meal they are entitled to, Suffolk Schools would be £3million better off.

More than 12,500 children in Suffolk already receive a free school meal. This saves their families around £400 a year and gives at least £900 (per child) of additional funding to their school.

### Is your child eligible?

Your child will be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, as long as you do not get a Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by H M Revenues & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week
- Universal Credit

To check if your child is eligible, simply call us on **01473 260989** (Ipswich/Lowestoft and surrounding area) or **01284 758883** (Bury St Edmunds and surrounding area)

### How do I apply?

The easiest way to check your eligibility and apply is to go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or complete an application form.

If you apply on-line, you will be sent e-mails to confirm that we have received your application, and when it has been approved.

If you want to complete a paper application form you can get one by:

- Downloading a form from [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)
- Collecting one from your child's school
- Calling us on **0345 606 6067**

Once completed you can either hand the form into your child's school or post it directly to us.

Once we've confirmed if your child is eligible we will write to you and your child's school.