

## EDUCATION, LEISURE AND HOUSING

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### Free School Meals and Clothing Allowances (2021/2022)

Applications are now being accepted for free school meals and clothing allowances for academic year 2021/2022.

The Scottish Government sets the eligibility criteria and for academic year 2021/22 you may be entitled to support if you are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support.
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance.
- Universal Credit and your monthly earned income is less than £625.
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,190.
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,500.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

You are also eligible if you are caring for a formally Looked After Child without the need for an income assessment.

**Please note that the above criteria may be subject to change.**

### Universal Entitlement

Currently children in primary 1 to 3 are automatically entitled to a free school meal without the need to apply, however, applications should still be submitted to apply for the clothing allowance.

As part of the Scottish Government rollout, the universal entitlement will be extended to include primary 4 children from August 2021, primary 5 from January 2022 and primary 6 and 7 from August 2022.

We encourage families who may be eligible for benefits-related free school meals to apply to ensure that all payments are received.

### How to Apply

Applications can be made online at: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/School-Benefit>

If you are unable to access the online application form then please contact the Education Grants team using the details at the top of this page and we will send you a paper copy.

## Existing Applicants

If you are currently receiving free school meal payments, this will continue to be paid through the summer holiday period. This means that your current entitlement will end on Friday, 13 August 2021. A new application must be submitted if you wish to reapply for the 2021/2022 academic year which begins on 17 August 2021.

Further information is available on our website at: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/School-Meals-and-Clothing-Allowances.htm>