

# Applying for Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

If you require help...

-  [www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)
-  028 9041 8044
-  [mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk](mailto:mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk)

## 1. Are you eligible?

You must be:

- in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
- be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

### Qualifying Benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £15,000 per year.

## 2. What documentation do you need?

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

- Tax Credits Award Notice
- Universal Credit Payments breakdown or
- Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).

## 3. What else do you need?

- National Insurance Number
- Childrens' names
- Dates of Birth
- Schools they will be attending
- Address
- E-mail and telephone number
- Bank or building society account and sort code details.

## 4. Where do you apply?

Apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance for the new school year beginning September, through the Education Authority's online portal, EA Connect. If you haven't already registered an EA Connect account, it's quick and easy to do. Information can be found on the EA website.



## 5. What happens next?

We aim to process applications within 4 weeks. However, in the busy period of June to September, this can take up to 5 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 5 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.



eaconnect

Applications for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance for the upcoming school year are currently open on EA Connect!

The EA have prepared a guide for parents to ensure they have completed their application correctly and provided the relevant supporting documentation.

For more information, including FAQs, visit: [www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)