

Free School Meals Application Form



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH



BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN

Section 1. About you

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| National Insurance Number | |
| Address | |
| Postcode | |
| Telephone number | |
| E-mail address | |

Section 2. About your children

| Name | Relationship to you | Date of birth | School attending |
|------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Section 3. About your income

| | Please tick |
|--|-------------|
| Universal Credit (you are not entitled if your monthly net earned income is more than £616.67) | |
| Income Support | |
| Income based Jobseeker's Allowance | |
| Income related Employment and Support Allowance | |
| Child Tax Credit (you are not entitled if you also receive Working Tax Credit or your earnings are above £16,190) | |
| The Guarantee Element of Pension Credit | |
| Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 | |

CLOTHING GRANT

Pupils entering Reception or Year 7 that are in receipt of Free School Meals as of September will also be entitled to a clothing grant. Pupils will be identified via the Council's database and payments sent out automatically.

Payment details for clothing grant

| Name of account holder | Sort code | Account number |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| | | |

Your declaration

Please read this declaration carefully before you sign and date it. I understand the following:

- If I give information that is incorrect or incomplete, you may take action against me. You will use the information I have provided to process my application. You may check some of the information with other sources within the council, rent offices, and other councils.
- You may use any information I have provided in connection with this, other local authority financial assessments or claims for Social Security benefits that I have made or may make. You may give some information to other government organisations, if the law allows this.

I know I **must let the Council know about any changes in my circumstances**. If I fail to do so I understand that the Council may take action against me. I **declare** the information I have given on this form is correct and complete.

| | | | |
|--|--|------|--|
| Signature of person claiming | | Date | |
| Signature of person completing the application on behalf of the claimant | | Date | |

New Free School Meal Criteria

A child is eligible for free school meals if the household is in receipt of:

- Universal Credit (where the monthly net earned income is not more than £616.67)
- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance Income-Based
- Employment and Support Allowance Income-Related
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but **not** Working Tax Credit, with annual income less than £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

With effect from **1st April 2019**, the Welsh Government has introduced an annualised **earned** income threshold of £7,400 for Universal Credit claimants who wish to claim free school meals for their children. At the same time, the Welsh Government has introduced a programme of transitional protection to protect families from losing eligibility for free school meals until the end of the rollout of Universal Credit (currently scheduled for 31st December 2023) and thereafter to the end of the school phase (primary, secondary).

Transitional Protection

1. Any pupil eligible for free school meals at the point of 1st April 2019 will have their eligibility protected. This will apply to all applicants until the end of the rollout of Universal Credit, regardless of whether their circumstances change.
2. Any pupil who becomes eligible under the amended criteria during the rollout of Universal Credit (from 1st April 2019 to 31st December 2023) will also retain their eligibility until the end of Universal Credit rollout, regardless of whether their circumstances change.
3. Once the rollout of Universal Credit has completed, any transitionally protected child will continue to be transitionally protected until the end of their current phase of education, e.g. primary / secondary.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are children still protected if their parents stop receiving Benefits entirely?

Yes, pupils remain protected until 31st December 2023 and then to the end of their current phase of education, regardless of whether their circumstances change.

What happens if the child moves to live with another family member who does not meet the eligibility criteria or leaves the area?

The protection is awarded to the individual child. If they move to live with another family member, they will keep their protection, even if the family member they move to live with does not meet the eligibility criteria. If the child moves to another Authority then they will still keep their protection.

If I am receiving free school meals for my eldest child prior to 1st April 2019, will the transitional protection cover their sibling who doesn't start school until September 2019?

If you receive free school meals prior to 1st April 2019 for a child who is currently in education, you will not automatically be entitled for any sibling who starts school after this date. The transitional protection only covers the child you receive free school meals for at the time. Your income will have to be assessed when a sibling starts school to see if you meet the new criteria for them.



Shared Benefits Service

This form should be returned to the Shared Benefit Service, Level Three, Civic Centre, Pontypool NP4 6YB.

For further information

Monmouthshire residents

Call - 01633 644 644 e-mail: benefits@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Torfaen residents

Call – 01495 766349/ 766570 e-mail: benefits@torfaen.gov.uk