



Dear Families,

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can, so we want to encourage you to apply for free school meals for your child if you are eligible for this scheme.

Registering for free school meals will also raise extra money for the school to spend on providing a great education for pupils. The school will receive up to £1,515 per year if your child is in year 6 or younger.

Although all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 qualify to receive a free school meal, it is still important that you apply for Pupil Premium if you think you may be eligible.

Who can receive free school meals?

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits i.e. Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance or Tax Credit.

If your child is post-looked after or you are a service family, you may also be eligible.

Please see the link below for further information.

Children who are paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or carer, can also get free school meals.

Transitional protection means that children who were approved for free school meals before 1 April 2025 will remain eligible until they finish the school phase they were in on that date eg: First School even if the family's circumstances have changed.

Children approved from 1 April 2025 onwards will not have protected eligibility. Annual checks will be undertaken by Dorset Council each Summer to re-check eligibility.

If you have any queries, please contact freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

When you complete an online application school staff don't see any specific information about your income or the benefits you receive.

Cont'd...



Apply for free school meals

To apply for free school meals for your child, please click on the link below.

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/initiolearning>

You will need your National Insurance number or Asylum Seekers Service number so we can make automated checks to confirm your entitlement.

We will let you know straight away if you qualify for free school meals and send you a confirmation email.

At Colehill First School, your child could benefit from things such as financial assistance towards uniform costs, attending after school clubs and free milk.

If you need any help in completing the form, please contact the school office 01202 882506 and we can assist or complete the form on your behalf.

Kind regards

Sharon Staddon

Mrs Sharon Staddon
Executive Headteacher