

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a period from the time that a person's Working Tax credit ends to when they are allowed to apply for Free School Meals (FSM)?

No, there is no set time limit. As soon as a person's Working Tax Credit ends, they are able to apply for Free School Meals.

Can a parent claim FSM for their children if they are not living in the same house as their children?

If the parents are living in separate houses, the parent who is in receipt of the eligible benefit can claim free school meals, even if the child is living with the other parent.

If a foster parent can claim Child Tax Credit for a fostered child are they entitled to claim FSM?

In the case of foster children, either of their natural parents or either of their foster parents could make a claim for free school meals if they were in receipt of an eligible benefit.

My children all go to different schools - should I fill a separate application form for free school meals for each child?

The award is made for the family - you can include all your children on one form, as long as they all attend schools in South Gloucestershire.

My child has just started school and already has brothers and sisters who get free school meals - do I need to re-apply?

No. We will add the information to your existing claim; contact us with the child's:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Name of school

Can a local authority backdate claims for parents/carers and provide a refund if necessary?

The decision lies with the local authority whether to backdate claims. However claims should only be backdated to the point that the FSM application was made and no further. This is because there is a legal requirement for a request to be made before a FSM can be provided.

Can a parent claim FSM for their children if they are not living in the same house as their children?

If the parents are living in separate houses, the parent who is in receipt of the eligible benefit can claim free school meals, even if the child is living with the other parent.

Is there a period from the time that a person's Working Tax credit ends to when they are allowed to apply for Free School Meals?

No, there is no set time limit. As soon as a person's Working Tax Credit ends, they are able to apply for Free School Meals.