

8th June 2018

Changes in the way we find out which students are eligible for free school meals.

In the past Manchester City Council have been able to tell us which students are entitled to free school meals (FSM) based on their knowledge of who receives benefits such as housing benefit and council tax support. However, from the **11th of June 2018** they will no longer be able to do this because the introduction of universal credit means that people will no longer claim these benefits.

It is very important that we know who is entitled to FSM not only so that we can provide your child with a lunch free of charge, but also because the school will receive additional funding which we use to support your child's education and ensure that they reach their full potential.

What you need to do...

From the 1st April the only way we will know if we should give your child free school meals is for you to check your eligibility online at the following web address -

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>



You will need to make a new application for each child but your information will be remembered to help you to complete multiple applications quickly.

You may apply for eligibility on behalf of a parent/carer if you have permission to do so and their details.

New application

Use this button if you are making a new claim for Free School Meals.

Start

/continued overleaf...

You will need to provide your name and date of birth, your contact details, your National Insurance number or National Asylum Seekers number, your child's name and date of birth and the name of the school - The East Manchester Academy.

The online form is very easy to fill in and we will both receive an email telling us whether your child is eligible for free school meals. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Come and talk to us if you're not sure; we can help you with your application and any data you provide will be completely confidential.

If the online application says you are not eligible but you disagree, please speak to Miss Schofield on Student Services - if you can show her your supporting documentation she will be able to authorise your child's FSM.

On a more positive note, any child who is eligible for FSM on or after 1st April 2018 will continue to receive FSM until universal credit is fully rolled out in 2022 even if your earnings rise above the new threshold during that time.

Please take a few minutes to check whether you are eligible - even if you do not want free school meals for your child, the additional funding will help us to ensure that your child reaches their full potential.

If you want further information then please talk to Paula Newman-Smith, SIMS & Data Manager, or email her at p.newman@temac.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

M Birrell

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Deputy Headteacher