

Free School Meals



Since September 2014, the government has offered universal free school meals to all pupils in infant schools, regardless of parental income. However, you may not realise that at KS2, **when your child joins Ranvilles Junior School, free school meals are only allocated to families who apply through Hampshire County Council meeting the Government's criteria.** Children who are eligible will not automatically receive free school meals: parents/carers must apply through Hampshire County Council. Even if your child does not want to take the free school dinners and will be bringing a packed lunch from home each day, we urge you to apply, if you are entitled, as the school receives funding based on the number of eligible children and this will support your child.

An award can only be provided where a parent/carer/child receives:

- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

No other benefits qualify for free school meals from Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5, 6).

Pupil Premium funding is money allocated to schools based on the number of pupils in school, eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), and those who have been eligible at any time in the last 6 years. This money is allocated to ensure pupils reach their potential, both academically and socially. If your child receives free school meals, the funding acquired by the school will be spent on your child directly or indirectly. It will be a benefit to them academically so we urge you to apply.

If you believe you might be entitled to free school meals, you can check your eligibility via Hampshire County Council's website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

You do not need to discuss your circumstances with school staff at any time if you do not wish to – the application is handled by Hampshire County Council – not the school. However, we are very happy to assist in any way we can and welcome you to call the school office should you need any help or advice. It is important to note that no other parents/carers or pupils will know you have been assessed and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

For more information please refer to the Hampshire County Council website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

All children order their meals using the same computer system in school – they simply state the colour they wish to order which reflects the menu choice of the day. It is not possible for other children in the class to know that a child is in receipt of free school meals – the system is fully inclusive to ensure children feel safe and are looked after.

Marcus Rashford

A Letter to my 10 Year Old Self

I encourage you to dream, because sometimes dreams are all you will have. I encourage you to lay your head on the pillow and close your eyes tight and think of better days to come, because luckily for us, our dreams have come true. Would I be the Marcus Rashford you see stood in front of you today if it wasn't for the hardship and struggle? Simple answer? No. You should never be ashamed to ask for help. Take pride in knowing that your struggle will play the biggest role in your purpose. Never drop your head in shame.

There have been many days that you have felt alone and, in this game we call football, there will be a few more to come. But your family and your community will never allow anyone to dim your light because that light is still needed to survive the darkest days. The noise your stomach has been making, will one day be replaced with the noise of crowds chanting your name. Buckle up little man, it's going to be quite the ride.

Your community will prove to be the most special extension of your family. When you fall, which you will, there will always be neighbours and friends to catch you. There is no need to feel ashamed because they will catch you without judgment and comment. No questions asked. Feel the warmth of those around you and know that one day, you are going to have the platform to repay them. For a young boy who says so little, one day you will have a voice that speaks for many.

One day you will have a lot of things you never dreamt of owning, but never forget that stability and consistency are two of the most valuable things you will ever experience. The youth centres that you visit today on a Monday,

Wednesday and Friday, will prove to be central to all of the greatest gifts you receive in life – your friendships, your discipline, your respect, and compassion for others.

One day you will have the opportunity to travel to lands you never knew existed, to hear languages so foreign, and experience culture so alien. Don't ever be overwhelmed. Stand tall, with the Mancunian accent that will become so familiar to many. Your youth centre has taught you to celebrate difference. To celebrate those that don't look or sound like you. And this is one of the greatest lessons you will learn, so hold on to it, as one day you will be stood alongside ten new allies whose only common language is that round ball that has become so important in your life. We do not point fingers, we never have. We wrap our arms around each other and tug each other up at times we are feeling low. Always remember that kindness is power.

The life lessons you will hold so close as an adult, are being taught right now within the four walls of that youth centre. The freedom and safety you are feeling, will one day be felt on a pitch much greater than you can imagine. Never take for granted this safe space as it plays such a big role in mum's life. You might not be able to see it now, but her smile grows wide and the weight on her shoulders lessens every time you return home with a full belly. One day those football players you idolize will be trumped by a greater hero. A hero that goes by the name of mum.

There have been many days that you have felt lesser than others, but no more. Your voice, your stance, your family, your community, and friends, all matter. Whenever you feel like you have very little, know that there are always people willing to give. Just look at those doors wide open welcoming you in for a snack or a chat. If I had to ask one thing of you it would be this. Please, never go to bed feeling like you don't have a role to play in this life because, believe me when I tell you, the possibilities are endless.