

Is your child entitled to claim Free School Meals (FSM)?

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1st April 2018 your household earned income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. (If you receive Working Tax Credit as well as Child Tax Credit you will not be entitled to free school meals).
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

The biggest barrier that we have observed to students claiming FSM is that there is a concern that they may stand out as different because of this. At CWS we work hard to ensure that any student who has the right to claim FSM is unidentifiable, meaning there is no difference between someone who obtains meals in the School Café using their own personal funding or who uses the funding provided by the government. With our Cashless Catering system socio-economic circumstances are irrelevant as the student's account is automatically topped-up on a daily basis with an allowance which will cover the cost of a hot main meal, including dessert, during the **lunch** service. Fresh drinking water is also freely available. The FSM allowance can then, if required, be topped up using the ParentPay system to allow the purchase of additional items from the whole café offering across all (breakfast, break and lunchtime) services. Any food or refreshments purchased in the café are paid for by using a student's finger pattern.

If you think you may be eligible and would like to apply for Free School Meals, please complete and return the 'Free School Meals Application Form'.

Uniform Voucher

If you successfully register for Free School Meals, you will also be eligible to claim a voucher from the School towards the cost of the compulsory items of the school uniform and sports kit (blazer, t-shirt, shorts or skirt, hoodie and socks).

Please see 'Entitlement to School Uniform Voucher' over the page for further information.

School Trips

In addition, if your child claims Free School Meals the School will, where requested, support the cost of your child's educational visits confidentially, and may also be able to assist with other non-curriculum-based trips.

We strongly urge parents to accept the support of the Free School Meals Programme. By doing this it means that the School will receive the appropriate funding to ensure that we can support students who might otherwise miss out on all the great opportunities that are on offer to them.



COOMBE
WOOD
SCHOOL

Entitlement to School Uniform Voucher

Coombe Wood School does not routinely provide school uniform vouchers, but will issue a voucher to those students who successfully register for Free School Meals on joining the School.

You will receive a voucher code which can only be used as specified either online or in store at Stevenson's, our uniform and sports kit provider, towards the cost of the compulsory items of the CWS school uniform and sports kit. The compulsory items of uniform and sports kit are: 1 x CWS blazer, 1 x CWS hoody, 1 x CWS technical t-shirt, 1 x CWS shorts or skort and 1 x pair of CWS socks.

Please refer to the 'Entitlement to Free School Meals Guide' on the previous page to ascertain your eligibility. If you think you may be eligible to receive Free School Meals then you will need to complete and return the Free School Meals Application Form.

Once a successful application has been made, a school uniform voucher will be issued for you to use instore or online at Stevensons' when purchasing your child's school uniform and sports kit.

Please note:

- The school uniform voucher is only applicable for the student named on it
- The school uniform voucher is NOT redeemable against any other item other than what is listed
- The school uniform voucher is not transferable to any other person
- The school uniform voucher cannot be exchanged by the bearer for the cash value, or any other residual amount, or a refund
- The school uniform voucher is only valid until the date on the voucher itself
- If an item of school uniform or sports kit is lost or stolen the School is not responsible for the cost of its replacement
- The issuing of the school uniform voucher is a one off event available to all parents and carers who successfully register their child for Free School Meals on joining the School