Dear Parent/Carer,

**APPLICATIONS FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The government has recently changed the date used for counting numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals for the purposes of working out extra funding due to schools. This is now based on the school census day in October (7th). It’s therefore really important for our school that all pupils who meet the criteria have had their eligibility checked and confirmed before that date. Even if your child is in Reception/Year 1 or Year 2 and therefore gets a free meal anyway, please do still apply if you think you meet the criteria outlined in this letter as this will generate pupil premium funding for your child and other extra funding into the school.

**To be eligible for free school meals you must be in receipt of the following benefits:**

* Income support
* Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
* Child Tax Credit, with no Working Tax Credit, with an income below £16,190
* Universal Credit
* Universal Credit and employed – take home pay must be no more than £616.67 per month
* Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, under section 95

**Please do not apply if you are receiving:**

* Working Tax Credit, if so you are not entitled to free school meals no matter what your annual income is;
* Universal Credit and you or your partner you are living with are employed and your ‘take home pay’ is more than £616.67 a month
* Child Tax Credit with no Working Tax Credit, your annual income must be no more than £16,190 to receive free school meals.

If you feel you meet the eligibility criteria we would be most grateful if you could please fill in the application form which is located at the link below and submit it to pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/education-and-schools/benefits-for-school-aged-children/free-school-meals-and-free-milk/>

If you prefer to complete a paper copy please complete the attached form and either:

* Email it to pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

or

* Return it to the school office and we will email it to the Pupil Benefits Team for you.

If you have any queries regarding the completion of the form please contact the Pupil Benefits Team. **Telephone: 0115 9154084 or Email:** **pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk**

**Please can you submit your applications by 24 September 2021 at the latest to give the Pupil Benefits Team time to process the applications before the Autumn Term school census day.**

**Yours sincerely**

**Head teacher**

**Application for**

free school meals and/or

school clothing allowance

**1 Details of parent/legal guardian**

The form should be completed by the parent/legal guardian who is in receipt of the qualifying benefit:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) | Surname | First name(s) |
|  |  |  |
| Address: |
| Postcode |  | Email Address |  |
| Home Phone |  | Mobile |  |
| National Insurance number or Home Office number |  | Date of Birth |  |

**2 Partner’s details**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) | Surname | First name(s) |
|  |  |  |
| National Insurance number or Home Office number |  | Date of Birth |  |

**3 Change of name or address**

If you or your child/ren have changed name and/or address in the last year, please give previous details below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**4 If you are eligible for free school meals, do you wish your child/ren to receive them? Y / N**

**5 Details of any children in the family**

Please include in the boxes below details of all dependent children who are living with you and are in attendance at school or nursery. Please include the names of any children who will be starting school or full-time nursery in the next 12 months.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First name** | **Surname** | **Male/****Female** | **Date of birth** | **Name of school/nursery** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**6 School Clothing Payments – not required for students at academies**

If you are eligible to receive school clothing allowance, we will pay the money directly into your bank account. Please complete your bank account details below:

**Bank sort code**

**Account number**

**Name of account holder(s)**

**Name and address of the bank or building society:**

**7 Qualifying confirmation**

The qualifying benefits to be eligible to receive free school meals, free mail and/or school clothing allowance are:

**Free School Meals only**

* Your annual income is not more than £16,190 (as assessed by her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) and you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit
* **NOT WITH WORKING TAX**

**School Clothing Allowance only**

* Your annual income is not more than £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) and you are in receipt of Child Tax and/or Working Tax Credit
* **NOT FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTEND ACADEMIES**
* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s

Allowance

* Employment and Support

Allowance (Income Related)

* Guarantee element of Pension

Credit

* Support under section 95 of the

Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

* Universal Credit with an annual

net earned income of £7,400 or below

**You may be asked to provide proof of your entitlement to one of the above if we are unable to confirm your eligibility via online checks.**

**8 Declaration to be signed by ALL applicants**

I understand that my entitlement to free school meals and/or school clothing allowance will continue only as long as I am in receipt of qualifying benefits. I will **immediately** inform the **Pupil Benefits Team** if my entitlement to **qualifying benefits end and/or the contact details for myself and/or my child/ren change**. I understand that I do not inform you of a change to my circumstances and my child/ren continues to receive free school meals or school clothing allowance I will have **to repay the amount in full**.

I declare that all of the information provided on this form and associated documents is complete and true and I authorise Nottingham City Council to take such steps as they consider necessary to verify the information provided.

I understand that you must protect the public funds that you handle and that you may use the information provided to prevent and detect fraud. You may also share this information with other organisations that handle public funds. I understand that to give false information may lead to prosecution.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Claimant: |  | Partner: |  |
| Signed: |  | Signed |  |
| Date: |  | Date: |  |

Once you have completed the application return the form to: pupil.benefits@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Please note, it will be processed far quicker if you email the form, not post it.

Pupil Benefits Section

College Street Centre Tel: 0115 915 4084

College Street

Nottingham

NG1 5AQ

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Received Date |  |  | FSM start |  |
| Processed Date |  |  | SCA issue |  |
| Assessed By |  |  | EMS Number(s) |  |
| Benefits Confirmation | Proofs/OCP |  |