



# INDIAN QUEENS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Current eligibility criteria for free school meals

Did you know that you children could qualify for free school meals? That means no bills but delicious, healthy meals for your children. School meals will give your child a real appetite for learning and help them to achieve their full potential. There is nothing healthier for your child and your family's budget than free school meals. As someone else is preparing the meals for your child, it saves our having to worry about the effort and expense of making packed lunches every day.

Your child may be entitled to receive free school meals if you are eligible to receive one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers 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're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

**Please note** that anyone claiming Working Tax Credit, Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and/or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance is NOT eligible for free school meals, regardless of what other benefits/credits are being claimed. However, you will be temporarily eligible to claim free school meals if you receive a Working Tax Credit run-on, which is the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

### **How to apply**

You need to contact the school, who will be able to give you an application form, and help and advise you, in the strictest of confidence. Further information can be found on the Cornwall Council website (<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=20132>), where you can, really easily, whether you are eligible for free school meals and then also apply online or download an application form.

### **Confidentiality**

It is not possible for anyone to know that your child is in receipt of free school meals. The system in school offers children the opportunity for them to have 'pre-paid' be that on a weekly basis and sent in by parents, or paid via the free school meals system. None of these children have to work about having the money for their meal with them when they collect their meal as the funding for the meals has already been sorted out. Many families follow this system. So please don't worry about your child feeling embarrassed or stigmatized about receiving their 'free' (prepaid) meals. But do contact the school if you would like to talk to someone about this in person.

Our school meals are all cooked on the premises and the dedication of the catering staff is such that they get to know each child, including their likes and dislikes (!) – all the staff know how important it is to ensure that each child looks forward to and enjoys eating their lunch with their friends, and with kind and helpful staff around to help them. Sign up for free school meals and your child could be enjoying a wide variety of tasty and nutritious food.

**NOTE:** All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to a free lunch under the Universal Infant Free School Meal system. However, it is still very important that the claim for Free School Meals is made as further, significant, funding is made to the school based on the number of children claiming free school meals. Please do check your eligibility – it is all done in the strictest confidence. Thank you.