



Brunswick Park Primary School

FSM FAQs:

Free School Meals: Your Questions Answered

Please note temporary changes to NRPF as of 20 April 2020

- **When my child is at school, why don't I pay for my child's meals?**

The government pays for school meals for children in Reception and Key Stage 1 while Southwark Council funds free school meals for Nursery and Key Stage 2 children. This means that all children in Southwark can have a free school lunch. This only happens in Southwark, Newham and Islington and does not happen elsewhere. Just because you do not pay for your child's school meals, it does not mean you are entitled to Free School Meals.

- **What does it mean to be entitled to Free School Meals?**

If you are receiving one of the means-tested benefits below, your child/ren could get Free School Meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee 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' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) at the time of your application. If your income goes above the threshold in the future, but you remain on Universal Credit, your child will remain eligible. If you applied before 1 April 2018 there was no household income threshold for Universal Credit claimants.

If you qualify for Free School Meals, your child's school gets additional funding from the Government, called Pupil Premium. This is why it is essential to make a claim, even though you do not have to pay for school meals whilst your child is at a state Nursery or Primary school in Southwark. The more people who claim for Free School Meals, the more money the school gets to spend on the children.

- **I think I may be entitled to Free School Meals. How do I get them?**

Free school meals are administered by local authorities. To make a claim contact the School Benefits Team at school.benefits@southwark.gov.uk or on 020 7525 5051, or staff in the School Office on 020 7525 9033 or on office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk. You can also check on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Please note that Brunswick Office staff can help you make a claim, but they do not decide if you are eligible: that decision is made by Southwark Council.

- **If I have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), can I claim for Free School Meals?**

Not usually. In normal circumstances Free School Meals are only available to people who have access to benefits.

AS OF 20 APRIL 2020, FOR THE DURATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURE AS A RESULT OF COVID-19, FAMILIES WITH NRPF CAN RECEIVE SUPERMARKET VOUCHERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPLIER, EDENRED. Families must make a claim for these using the special NRPF Free School Meals Application Form at the end of these FAQs and available for download on the school website. **School staff will help you complete the form and submit evidence. We will be in touch as soon as possible with the families with NRPF we know. If we do not know you have NRPF and you want to make a claim, please download the form and contact the School Office Staff on 020 7525 9033 or office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk who will help you.**

- **Why are some people getting Supermarket Vouchers and other people are not?**

Whilst schools are closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government is giving Supermarket Vouchers to every parent who has claimed successfully for Free School Meals to spend on food for their children. If you have not claimed for Free School Meals or are not entitled to them, you will not receive vouchers.

- **What is the Supermarket Voucher allowance?**

£15 per child per week. So, if 2 of your children are entitled, it is £30 per week, and if 3 of your children are entitled, it is £45 per week, etc.

- **Who provides the vouchers, and how do I get them?**

A company called Edenred provides vouchers on behalf of the Government. There have been lots of problems with Edenred vouchers, and there are very long delays in sending them to parents. Brunswick has ordered all its Edenred vouchers, but Edenred has only just started sending them out. They come as an eCode to your email. There is one eCode per child, so if you have more than 1 child you must click on all your eCodes to access all your vouchers.

Because Edenred is taking so long, Brunswick Park has sent two weeks' vouchers via a company called Wonde. They are also accessed by eCode, sent to your email and by SMS. When the Edenred vouchers eventually arrive, they will still be valid.

- **My child/ren are not entitled to Free School Meals, so I do not get Supermarket Vouchers. What can I do?**

If your circumstances have not changed – you still earn the same amount as you did before schools closed and you do not receive any of the means-tested benefits on the list – you are not eligible for Free School Meals so cannot do anything.

- **My circumstances HAVE changed: my income has reduced because of COVID-19 restrictions. I am now entitled to means-tested benefits. What can I do?**

If your circumstances HAVE changed – if you have been furloughed so your income has reduced, if you are on a Zero Hours Contract and have no work or if you have lost your job, making you eligible for means-tested benefits - you should make a claim for Free School Meals. If your claim is successful you will receive vouchers, though there will be a time delay. If you have applied for Universal Credit following a reduction in income you can also claim for Free School Meals, but there will also be a time delay.

- **I have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and am in financial hardship, or I am in financial hardship because I have been furloughed, have lost my job or have no work on my Zero Hours Contract. What help can I get?**

Families with NRPF are entitled to Supermarket Vouchers as of 20 April 2020, and must complete a NRPF FSM Application Form; school staff will help you with this. If you are in financial hardship because you have NRPF and have not received assistance before 20 April 2020, or because your circumstances have changed and you need to make a FSM claim, or are waiting for your FSM claim to be processed, you can get food parcels on Thursdays from Brunswick Park Primary School using our Grab Bag Scheme. You can also access Food Banks:

Southwark Foodbank (PECAN) - 020 773 20007 / <https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwarkfoodbank> .

Five centres operating in the borough with opening times and locations listed on its website.

Oasis Foodbank - 0207 357 7331

Has one distribution centre in Southwark at St George The Martyr Church, Borough High St, London, SE1 1JA

Central Southwark Community Hub - 020 7703 1653 / <https://www.cschub.co.uk/>

Four centres in the borough with locations and opening hours listed on its website. Clients need to be referred to Margaret Taribo (margaret.taribo@cschub.co.uk) before a visit is made.

Camberwell Community Fridge – 020 7737 6186 / Albrighton Centre Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

The Borough Free Fridge – 02073577331 / St George The Martyr Church, Borough High Street, SE1 1JA. Open Tuesday afternoon, 2-5pm.

If you are entitled to Food Bank Vouchers, Marjorie Damah, Fiona O'Malley and Andrea Inniss-Griffith are all still able to issue them. Please contact the School Office or email office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk .

- **How does the Grab Bag Scheme work?**

One Grab Bag of long life essential food items, such as tinned tomatoes, tinned chick peas and pasta, is available per child on Thursdays between 10:00 and 11:00 at the school for collection from the Key Stage 2 Playground. Good hygiene and social distancing measures will be maintained for your safety.

If you have 2 children you can take 2 bags; 3 children 3 bags etc. You can request Grab Bags by contacting the School Office on 020 7525 9033 or on office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk or through Marjorie Damah, our School Home Support Practitioner. You can also request them using the Google Docs Form on the School Website www.brunswickparkprimary.co.uk .

Grab Bags are for those families in financial hardship who are *not* claiming Free School Meals; if you claim Free School Meals you get Supermarket Vouchers.

If you have any questions not answered above, please contact the School Office and staff will help you.

Application form for temporary free school meals from families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

Please complete this application form if you are in one of the following categories and would like to apply for free school meals during the temporary extension as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- A Zambrano carer
- Have the right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the ECHR
- Receiving support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 AND are subject to a NRPF condition

With exception of those receiving support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, you must also be earning less than £7,400 per year after tax.

To fill in this form, all applicants should complete:

- part 1 and 2;
- the relevant section for their category in parts 3-6; and
- part 7, apart from those receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

When completed, please ensure the declaration at the end of the application is also signed.

Further information relating to this temporary extension in the guidance on [providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak](#).

1. Child's details

Surname of child	First name(s) of child
Date of birth of child (dd/mm/yy)	Nationality of child
Address of child	

2. Parent/carer's details

Surname of parent/carer	First name(s) of parent/carer
Relationship to child	Nationality of parent/carer
Address of parent/carer	
Category applying under: Zambrano / Article 8 ECHR / Section 4 Immigration & Asylum / Section 17 Children Act 1989	

3. Zambrano carers

If you are the holder of a derivative residents card, please share a copy. (A photograph is acceptable) If not, please sign your initials next to each of the following statements to confirm that you meet the criteria.

Carers must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible.

- I confirm that I (the carer/parent) am not a British citizen.
- I confirm that the child is a British citizen.
- I confirm that I (the carer/parent) am a direct relative or legal guardian of the child.
- I confirm that I (the carer/parent) have primary responsibility for the child.
- I confirm that there are no other people in my family in the UK who could look after the child.

Please also complete section 7.

4. Leave to remain in the UK under article 8 of the ECHR

If you have leave to remain in the UK under article 8, please provide evidence of this. Evidence could include a letter from the Home Office granting you leave to remain, or a biometric residence card.

Please also complete section 7.

5. Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are receiving section 4 support, please provide evidence of this. Evidence could include a letter from the Home Office or local authority confirming Section 4 support, and should be dated within the last six months.

People applying under this category are NOT required to complete section 7.

6. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989

If you are receiving Section 17 support, please provide evidence of this such as a Child in Need letter from the local authority dated within the last six months.

Please also complete section 7.

7. Evidence of earnings

To be eligible for free school meals, applicants must also show that they are earning less than £7,400 annually. This equates to a maximum of £616 per month. Where possible, please also provide a document to show this – this could be a bank statement, a pay slip or an employment contract.

Are you employed?	
If you have a partner, are they employed?	
If you are employed, are your annual net earnings less than £7,400 per year?	

Declaration of Applicant

I (Name)

Of (Address)

confirm that the information I have provided above is accurate and true.

I agree that the information I have provided can be shared with the local authority, the Department for Education and other government departments for the purposes of assessing eligibility for a free school meal.

Parent/Carer/Guardian with legal responsibility for care of the child	
Signed	•
Print name	•
Date	•