

Help your school, help yourself

F = Funds for your school

S = Stay anonymous

M = Money for you
and your family*

You could be over **£400 better off** a year with **Free School Meals** and your school could get thousands of pounds of government funding.

Parents, could your child be entitled to free school meals?

Figures show parents in the borough who are eligible to claim for free school meals for their children are not claiming their entitlement. We want to increase the number of children taking up free school meals because there are benefits for everyone:

- Children can benefit from a free nutritious meal.
- Schools will benefit directly by receiving money from the government. The government pays schools £430 for every child who registers for free school meals. Your school could benefit from thousands of pounds.
- Families entitled to free school meals could save more than £400 per child per year by claiming free school meals.
- Claiming free school meals is **anonymous** thanks to the StreetBase and Splash cards. Cards are swiped in the same way as a paid meal so nobody knows that it's a free school meal.
- Applying for free school meals is so much easier – parents can now complete and submit application forms online on the Council's website. It only takes a few minutes, check if you're entitled and complete the form now at, www.lbbd.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Cllr Rocky Gill, Cabinet Member for Education and Children, said: "This is a very important campaign where everyone can benefit. Parents can make a real difference by claiming what their children are entitled to. We want to support our families and children especially in the tough economic climate."

Parents, if after going online you have any questions or would like to speak to someone about your Free School Meal claim please telephone **020 8227 2970** or email the team on **benefits@lbbd.gov.uk**

If you are on a low income or receive Child Benefit and any of the following benefits, you could claim free school meals for your child:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit (guaranteed credit)
- Employment and Support Allowance
(Households cannot claim free school meals if they are receiving Working Tax Credits or earning more than £16,190)

**Help your school and help yourself
by claiming free school meals.**