

January 29th 2021



Dear Parents, Carers

RE: Free School Meal Entitlement – Have your Circumstances Changes?

At Wey Valley Academy, we are committed to providing your child with the best possible care in all areas of their school life. The link between a healthy diet and education is essential. During the current pandemic, circumstances for many people have changed. I am therefore writing to ensure you are aware of the circumstances under which parents / carers may be entitled to claim free school meals for their child(ren).

It is easy to check if you are entitled to free school meals by either visiting: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx> or calling 01305 221000. You will be asked to provide basic details including your name, date of birth and National Insurance Number. You will have an instant decision and, if you are entitled to free meals, we will also be contacted directly by Dorset Council.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- 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 guaranteed element of 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 - 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)

Children can get a substantial lunch from our canteen. If, during the COVID-19 lockdown, your child is not in school, you will receive a corresponding amount for each day they are not in school by way of a voucher that you can use to purchase food from most supermarkets.

It is important we know which children are entitled to free meals as all schools receive additional funding to support their education. This can be used to support group or school wide support and schools may also offer additional individual support for pupils by means of discounted educational visits or revision guides and so on.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Russell".

Rob Russell - Principal

Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

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