**Free School Meals and Clothing Grants**

**Free school meals**

The Free School Meal Paypoint Voucher System will restart from Friday 15 January to cover the following:

* All P1-3 pupils who receive free school meals through Universal Entitlement.
* P4-P7 and S1-S6 pupils currently in receipt of free school meals, registered as at Monday 17th March 2020.

Parents and Guardians of pupils who receive a free school meal will be sent out a voucher code for £15 each week (£15.00 per child per week) either by SMS or Post depending on the information held on record. Please note the first payment is slightly higher (£24) to cover all school days as from Wednesday 6 January 2021.

To find your nearest PayPoint store please visit <http://www.paypoint.co.uk/paypointlocator>

These payments have been approved up to 29/01/2021 pending further advice from the Scottish Government.

**Free school meals**

You may be entitled to apply for free schools meals if your child attends a North Lanarkshire school. All Primary 1 to 3 children are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal.

**Applying for free school meals**

To apply, please download and complete a free school meals application form below (address details are on the form).

Once we've made a decision, we'll contact you using the mobile number or email address you supplied, or by letter.

We will let the school know once a new application has been accepted.

**Eligibility**

If you receive any of the following benefits and your child attends a North Lanarkshire school then you can apply for free school meals:

* Income support
* Job seekers allowance (income based)
* Employment and support allowance (income related)
* Universal credit (max. monthly income of £610)
* Child tax credit (gross annual income less than £16,105 and no element of working tax credit)
* In receipt of both maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit (gross maximum income below £7330)
* Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

**Application for free school meals and clothing grant 2020-2021**

[Application for free school meals and clothing grant 2020/21 [172.22 KB]](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/CC_2020_00027%20FSM%20CG%20Form%20only%20Accessible%20%281%29.pdf)

**North Lanarkshire Child Payment**

**Q Do I have to apply for the North Lanarkshire Child Payment for low income families?**

No application for the £100 **North Lanarkshire Child Payment** will be required if you are already in receipt of Free School Meals/School Clothing Grant on the basis of low income eligibility.

**Q When will I receive the North Lanarkshire Child Payment?**

This will be paid into bank accounts week commencing Monday 25 January, however, this can take a few days to clear so could be a few days after.

**Q How much will I receive?**

The **North Lanarkshire Child Payment** of £100 is per child and not per household.

For payments made into Bank Accounts families with more than one child will receive one payment for all children, eg 2 children payment of £200, 3 children payment of £300, etc.

For payments made through Paypoint families with more than one child will receive one SMS or Post Voucher per child, eg 2 children 2 separate payments of £100, 3 children 3 separate payments of £100, etc.  Please note SMS Vouchers will show as at text message from “Cash Out” with a 7 day expiry date, post vouchers will be sent in a letter with a 14 day expiry date.  These vouchers can be redeemed for cash at any local Paypoint Store.

Locate your local Paypoint Store: <https://consumer.paypoint.com/cashout>

**Q What if my bank account information has changed?**

If your Bank Account information has changed since your online application for Free School meals, please email nlchildpayment@northlan.gov.uk  and we can check and resolve any issues.

**Q Can you confirm the eligibility criteria for the North Lanarkshire Child Payment?**

Eligibility for Free School Meals based on low income, is as set out below:

1. A child is eligible to receive Free School Meals, where the household is in receipt of:
* Universal Credit (where monthly earned income is not more than £610)
* Income Support
* Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
* Income-based Employment and Support Allowance;  support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
1. A child is also eligible to receive Free School Meals, where the household is in receipt of:

• Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and household income is less than £16,105;
• both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and have an income of up to £7,330.
2. A child might still get a free lunch in school if their household experience financial hardship. This could be because:

• Their immigration status means they cannot get help from the government;
• They're still waiting on their first Universal Credit notice.

**Q I think I am eligible for the School Clothing Grant/Free School Meals, but have not previously applied.  Can I apply now?**

If you are eligible for either a School Clothing Grant or Free School Meals (not including the universal provision for P1-P3) but have not yet applied for the 2020/21 school session, you can apply now through our application process, which is now available online.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants/free-school-meals>

You must include the evidence to support your claim when you submit the online form.  Once your eligibility has been verified, you will be issued with a payment in accordance with the published guidelines.

**Contact us**

fsm@northlan.gov.uk