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What is the current age children are entitled to receive free school meals?

Transactions award FSM for all school age children from P1 to S6 who apply and meet the income-based eligibility criteria set by Scottish Government.

Does the Local Authority participate in the food for life award, and if so at what level?

The City of Edinburgh Council have retained the Bronze Food For Life Award since 2014 for all primary schools and high schools

Does the Local Authority ringfence funding for school meals and if so, what is the amount per meal/pupil?

Yes, all government funding is retained by the service. As this is a mixture of capital and revenue there is no fixed cost per head/pupil, however UFSM is funded at £3.33

Does the Local authority have a flexible approach to pupils in need of free school meals?

Scottish Government set the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals and we award FSM on this basis: [School meals - mygov.scot](#). The criteria set do allow for some discretion:

Getting free lunches if you're not getting benefits or tax credits

Your child might still get a free lunch in school, early learning or childcare if you're experiencing financial hardship. This could be because:

- your immigration status means you cannot get help from the government
- you're still waiting on your first Universal Credit notice

Head Teachers have local discretion for free meals and may use some of their PEF funding if a pupil who doesn't reach the criteria is in need of a meal.