THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL
SERVE · PRAY · ACHIEVE · RESPECT

Rise up,
take courage,
and do it.

The Barlow RC High School
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20th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carers

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Since 1st April 2018 and until 31st March 2025, all existing and new free school meals claimants have continued to receive free school meals for 6 years or until the end of their current school phase (primary or secondary), regardless of any changes to their eligibility criteria.

From April 2025 this has changed. This means that new claimants for free school meals will only receive it while meeting the eligibility criteria. If you no longer meet the criteria the school will receive a notification.

CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS TODAY

You can apply for free school meals via an online application. It takes no more than 5 minutes!

Why sign up?

- Saves you money on school lunches.
- Ensures your child has access to a nutritious meal every day.
- Helps reduce stress around meal planning.
- Your child will have access to a varied menu, providing nutritious food.
- Free school meal vouchers during holiday periods which you can use at a number of supermarkets.

Did you know free school meals supports your child's learning?

When families sign up for Free School Meals, the school receives additional funding through something called the Pupil Premium. Pupil premium funding is £1,050 each year from the Government for every child eligible for free school meals in secondary school, providing us with a very important boost to school funds.

This money helps us:

- Provide extra support for children who need it.
- Offer more clubs and activities (like music, sports, and trips).
- Buy new learning resources (books, technology, classroom tools).
- Hire specialist staff (like learning mentors or teaching assistants).

Need help applying?

Call us and we'll guide you through it.
Call the school office – we're happy to help.
Paper forms available on request.

In-Person Support
We will hold a drop in between 2.00pm – 3.00pm each day – just pop in to the school office. Staff will be available on parents' evenings to support applying for free school meals

Who Can Get Free School Meals?

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Does my child have to eat a school lunch if I register?

While it is recommended your child eats a school lunch, due to the nutritional value it provides. Your child can spend their allowance on anything from the canteen from breakfast to snacks and drinks. **We would ask though, that you register regardless of whether or not they want a meal so we can receive this funding to support your child.**

How will this benefit my child?

Although the school as a whole will benefit from receiving this extra funding, we will use this funding to provide targeted support and provision to individual children who we know will benefit from additional provision.

APPLY NOW!

Apply by completing an application form via the link below:
https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500186/education_benefits/7355/free_school_meals/1

The application is completely confidential and applying online is quick and you get an instant decision. If you require any support from the school, please email us on freeschoolmeals@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk and we will respond to your query within 48 hours.

Yours faithfully

C.M. Wallace.

Ms CM Wallace
Headteacher