



May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – UNIFORM – PARENTPAY

Free School Meals

We would like to let you know that the Colston's Girls' School/Montpelier High School has subscribed to the Bristol City Council Online Free School Meals Application Service. Information and the online application form can be found at:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals>

You can also apply by filling in a form and posting it to Bristol City Council.

For new applicants, it is a straightforward application process where you register as a user and once registered complete a small amount of information online about yourself and your child, you will then get an immediate response as to whether you are eligible for Free School Meals for your child or not. In most cases you will not need to provide any proof of benefit as this will be done automatically.

The school will be able to see that you have applied and are eligible for Free School Meals. Once you have applied electronically, you will not need to re-apply again as the school will be notified if your eligibility changes.

We would encourage all parents/carers if you believe that you may be entitled to Free School Meals to apply for them, as if you are eligible it has additional funding implications for the school which would be beneficial.

Your child might be able to get free school meals (FSM) if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as 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. This is also called the 'minimum income floor').

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling they are in on 31 March 2024.

Uniform

Our uniform supplier, [Monkhouse Schoolwear](#), where items such as the branded blazer and jumper can be purchased (full details are given in the Essential Information booklet) is open for appointments. Parents/carers may also order online.

In previous years, we have held a very popular second-hand uniform sale, operated by the PTA, as part of the annual summer fair. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the PTA will not be able to make this opportunity available this year. However, PTA will be running an online uniform shop, for non-branded items of uniform, with collection from the school at specified dates and times. Further details will be available soon from the PTA.

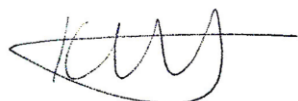
In addition, we have a limited budget available to provide some financial assistance to parents/carers towards the cost of the school uniform. This will mainly be provided to parents/carers whose child is in receipt of Free School Meals and will be provided by way of a voucher, redeemable at Monkhouse Schoolwear. Please complete the [Google form](#), which can be found on the website, under Year 7 Transition.

Some additional funding has also been made available, on a one-off basis, by the PTA, for parents/carers whose child is not eligible to Free School Meals but would benefit from some financial assistance towards the purchase of uniform. Again, please complete the Google form above.

ParentPay

Colston's Girls' School uses the online system, ParentPay, which enables parents/carers to pay for items such as school lunches, tuck shop, school trips and events. Information on this, together with log-on details, will be provided to you in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K McCullagh
Principal