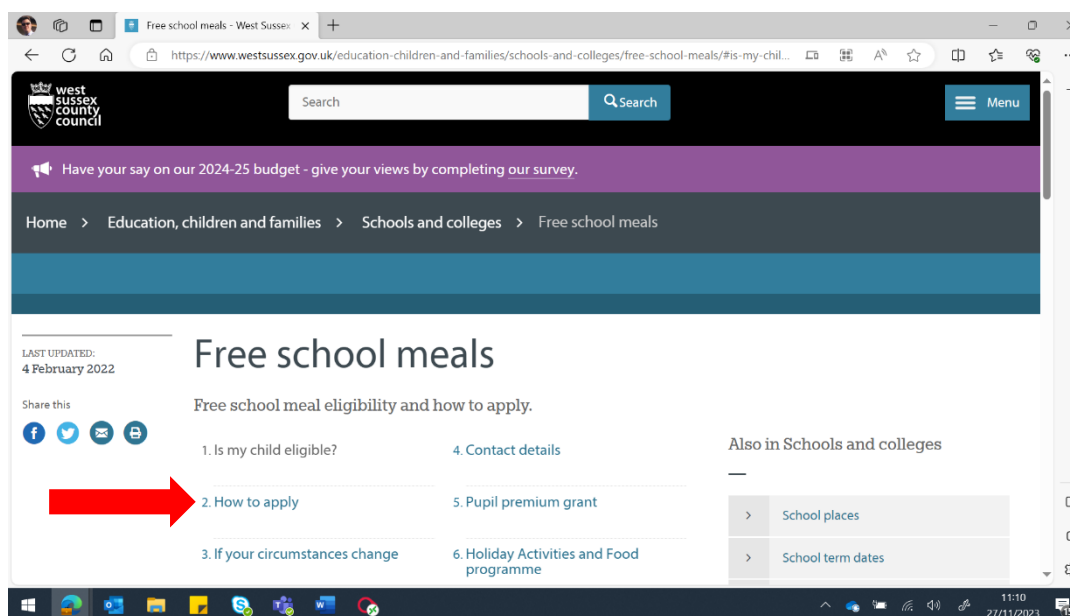


Free School Meal Application Process for Parent (Parent Portal) from January 1st, 2024

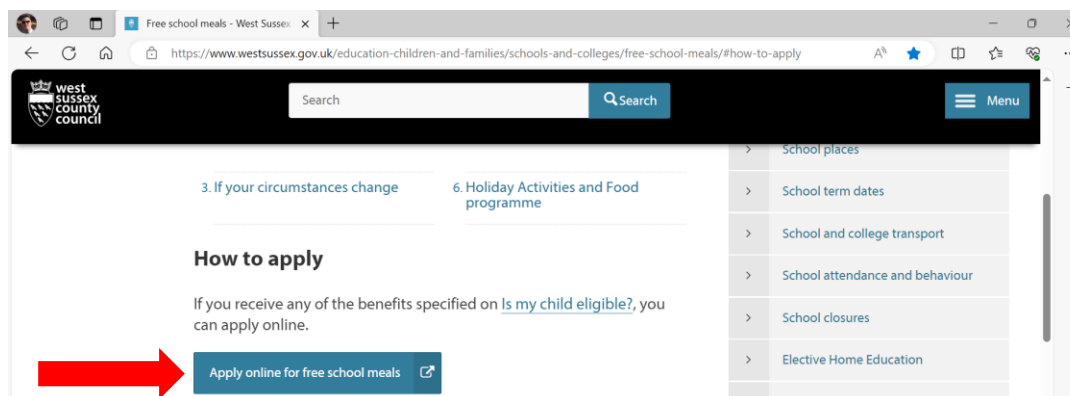
The purpose of this document is to show the process that parents will need to follow in order to make an application for a Free School Meals check to be made for their Children.

1. Please go to the West Sussex County Council Website here: [Free school meals - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#is-my-child-eligible)

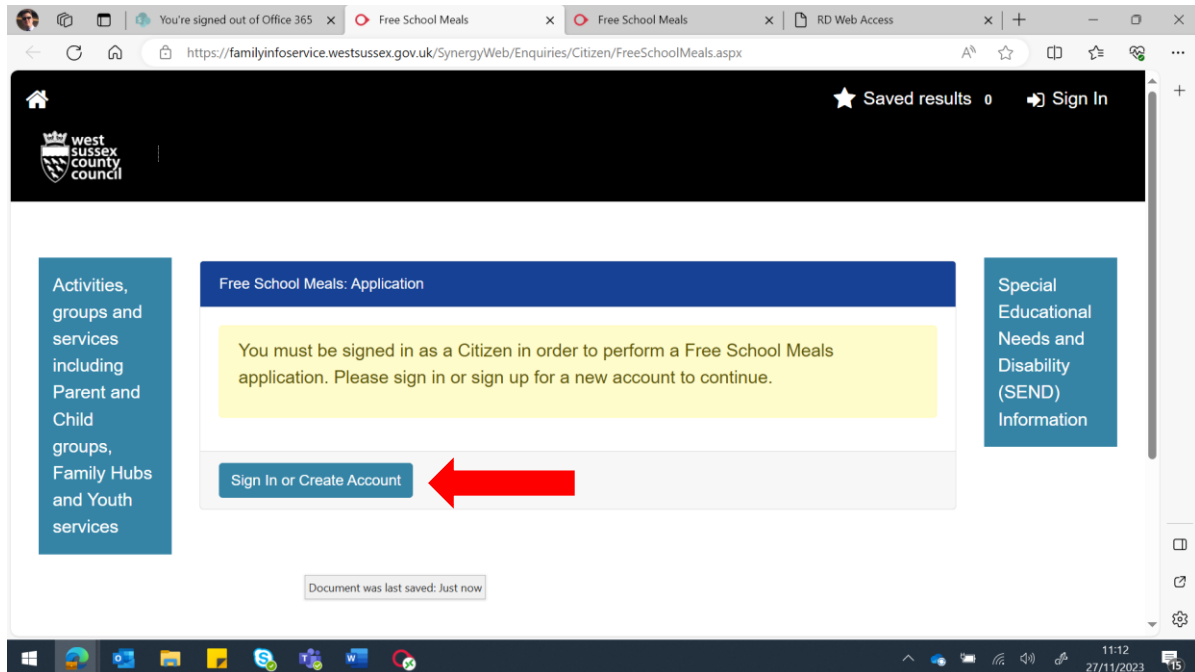
Take note of the eligibility criteria on this page and click on the 2. How to apply tab:



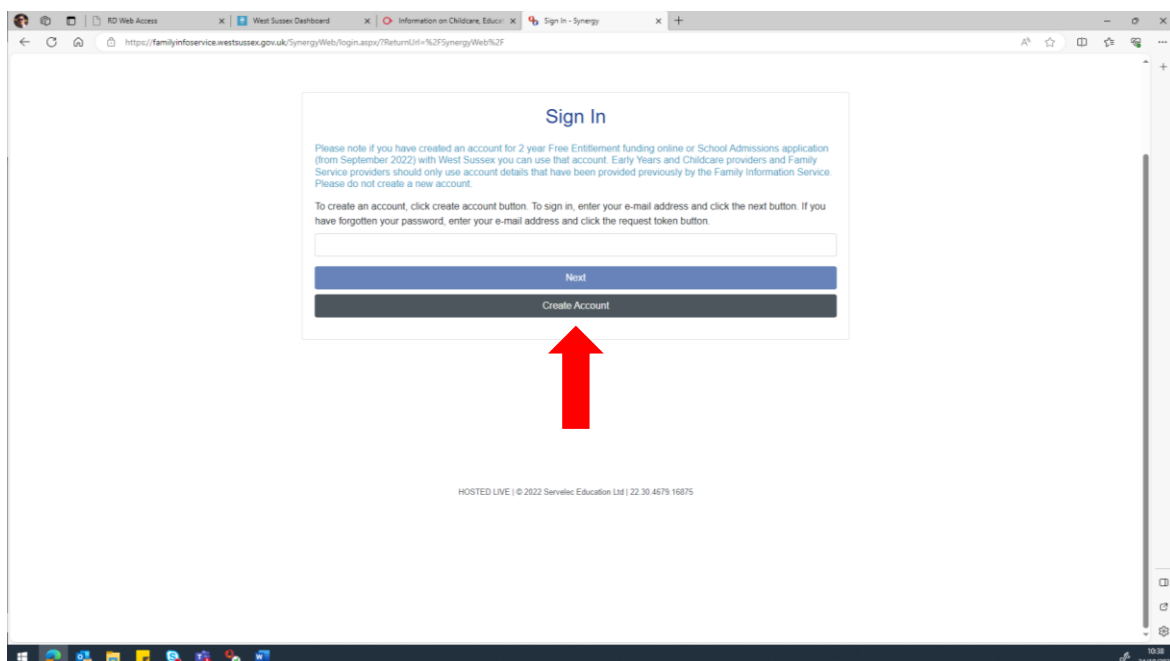
2. This will take you to the page below. Please click on Apply online for free School meals.



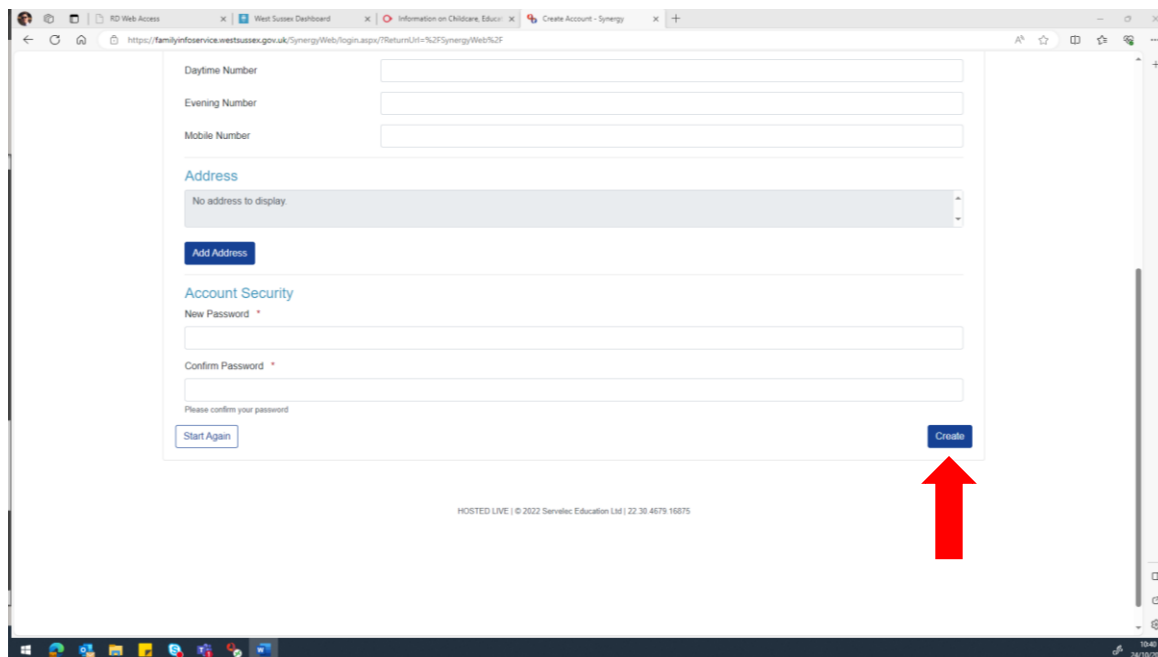
3. You will then see the page below. Click on Sign in or Create Account:



4. If you already have a login, proceed to login to your account. If not, please press create account. Note, you may already have an account if you have used the portal to apply for School Admission places.



5. Fill in all the information required to create an account and press create.

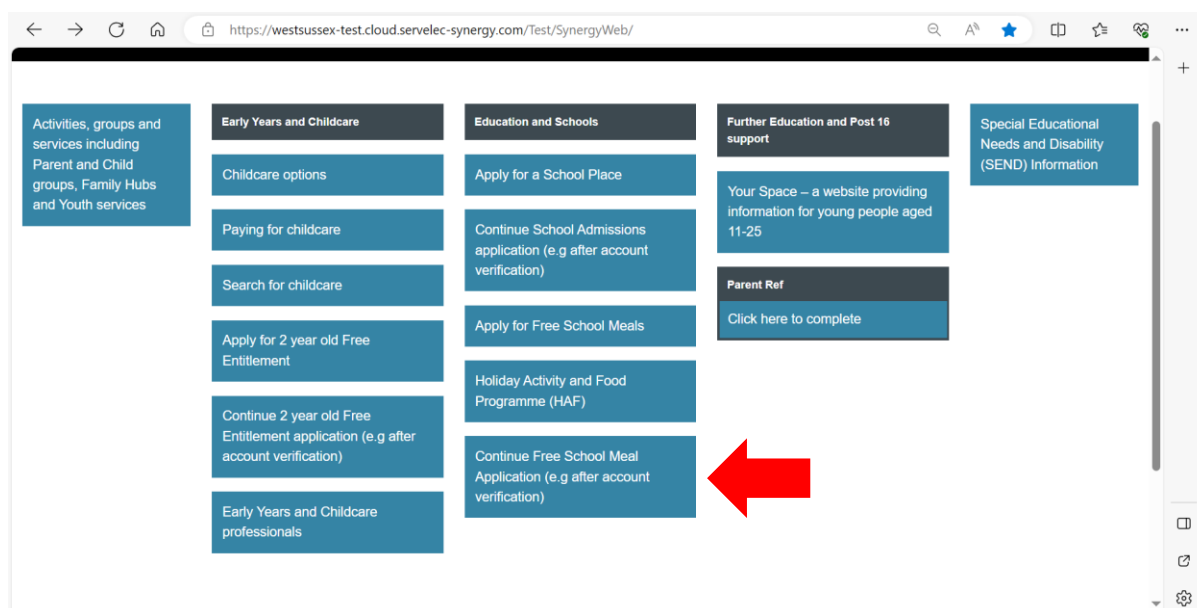


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://familyinfoservice.westsussex.gov.uk/Synergy/Web/SignIn.aspx?ReturnUrl=-%2FSynergy/Web%2F>. The page contains a registration form with the following sections:

- Daytime Number**: Input field
- Evening Number**: Input field
- Mobile Number**: Input field
- Address**: A dropdown menu showing "No address to display" with an "Add Address" button below it.
- Account Security**:
 - New Password ***: Input field
 - Confirm Password ***: Input field
 - Text: "Please confirm your password"
 - Start Again**: Button
 - Create**: Button (highlighted with a red arrow)

At the bottom of the page, it says "HOSTED LIVE | © 2022 Servelec Education Ltd | 22.30.4679.16875".

6. Once you have created/signed into your account click 'Continue Free School Meal Application (e.g after account verification)' to continue the Free School Meals application form.

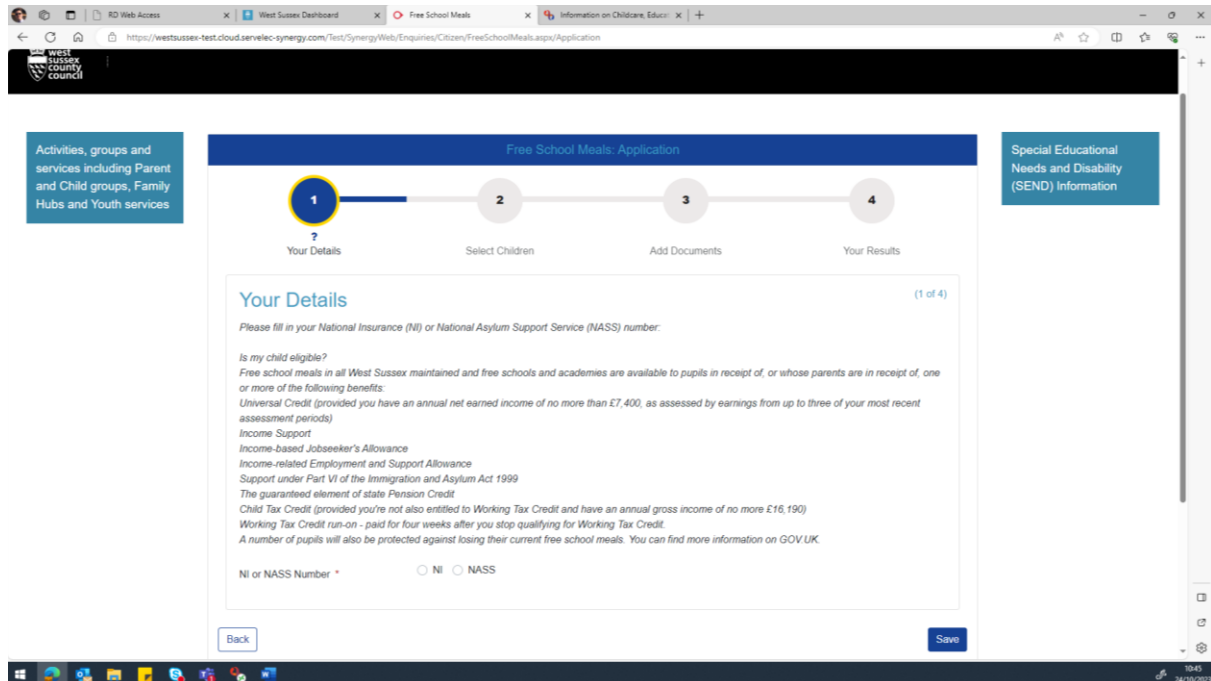


The screenshot shows the Synergy web portal home page with the URL <https://westsussex-test.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Test/Synergy/Web/>. The page is organized into several columns of service tiles:

- Left Column:** "Activities, groups and services including Parent and Child groups, Family Hubs and Youth services"
- Second Column (Early Years and Childcare):** "Childcare options", "Paying for childcare", "Search for childcare", "Apply for 2 year old Free Entitlement", "Continue 2 year old Free Entitlement application (e.g after account verification)", "Early Years and Childcare professionals"
- Third Column (Education and Schools):** "Apply for a School Place", "Continue School Admissions application (e.g after account verification)", "Apply for Free School Meals", "Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)", "Continue Free School Meal Application (e.g after account verification)" (highlighted with a red arrow)
- Fourth Column (Further Education and Post 16 support):** "Your Space – a website providing information for young people aged 11-25", "Parent Ref" (with "Click here to complete" link)
- Fifth Column (Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information):** "Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information"

7. This will take you to the following page:

Please take note of the eligibility criteria displayed.



Free School Meals: Application

1 Your Details | 2 Select Children | 3 Add Documents | 4 Your Results

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information

Activities, groups and services including Parent and Child groups, Family Hubs and Youth services

Your Details (1 of 4)

Please fill in your National Insurance (NI) or National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number:

Is my child eligible?
Free school meals in all West Sussex maintained and free schools and academies are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:
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 guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
A number of pupils will also be protected against losing their current free school meals. You can find more information on GOV.UK.

NI or NASS Number * NI NASS

Back Save

8. There are mandatory fields at the bottom of this page. Please click either NI (National Insurance) or NASS (National Asylum Support Service), whichever is relevant to you and enter the details required and press Save.



NI or NASS Number * NI NASS

NI Number: * ✓

DOB * ✓

Back  Save

9. This will then take you to the below screen where you can either select the child(ren) you wish to apply for or add a new child.

Free School Meals: Application

1 ✓ Your Details 2 ? Select Children 3 Add Documents 4 Your Results

Select Children (2 of 4)

Please be aware that only children between the age of 4 Year(s) 0 Month(s) and 18 Year(s) 0 Month(s) will be displayed. ✕


Select the child(ren) you wish to include in the free school meals application.

New Child

Name	DOB
<i>There are no records to show</i>	

Please select the child you wish to apply for

Back Next



10. If this is the first time you are using this account, you will need to add your children. Press New Child and you will see the following screen:

Free School Meals: Application

Create Child

To create a new child, please complete the following details and then save these details using the buttons at the end of the form.

Forename * Current School


Middle Name

Surname *

DOB *

Gender *

Address same as Applicant?



11. Fill out the required information. Please ensure to add the School that the child is attending located in the top right of the form. For the purpose of this document the rest of the process will be for a child named Micky Mouse.

12. Once you have added the child, ensure they are ticked as below and press 'next'.

Free School Meals: Application

1 Your Details ✓

2 Select Children ✓

3 Add Documents


4 Your Results

Select Children (2 of 4)

Please be aware that only children between the age of 4 Year(s) 0 Month(s) and 18 Year(s) 0 Month(s) will be displayed. ✕

Select the child(ren) you wish to include in the free school meals application.

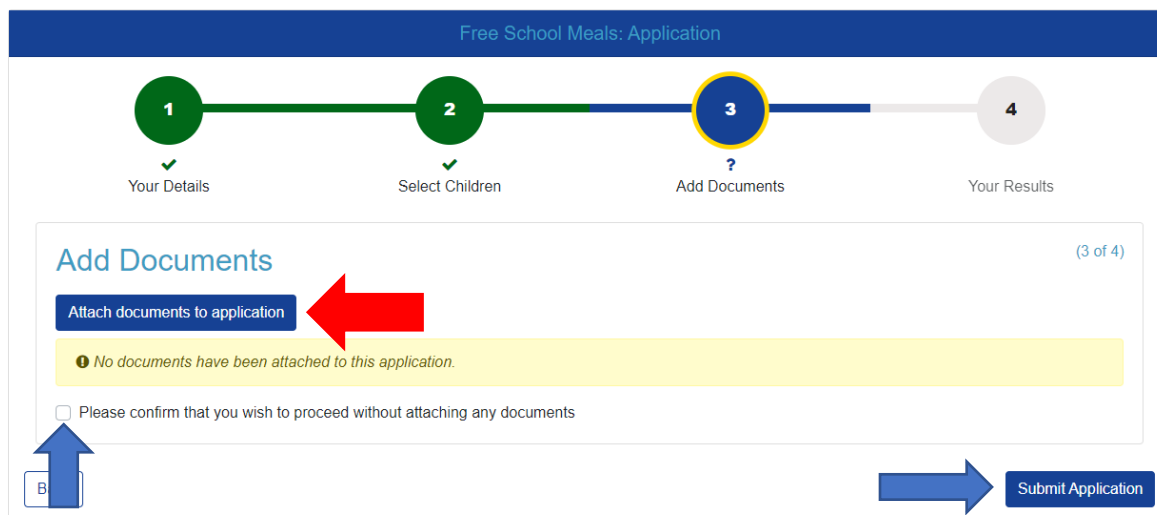
[New Child](#)

	Name	DOB	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Micky Mouse	01/01/2007	

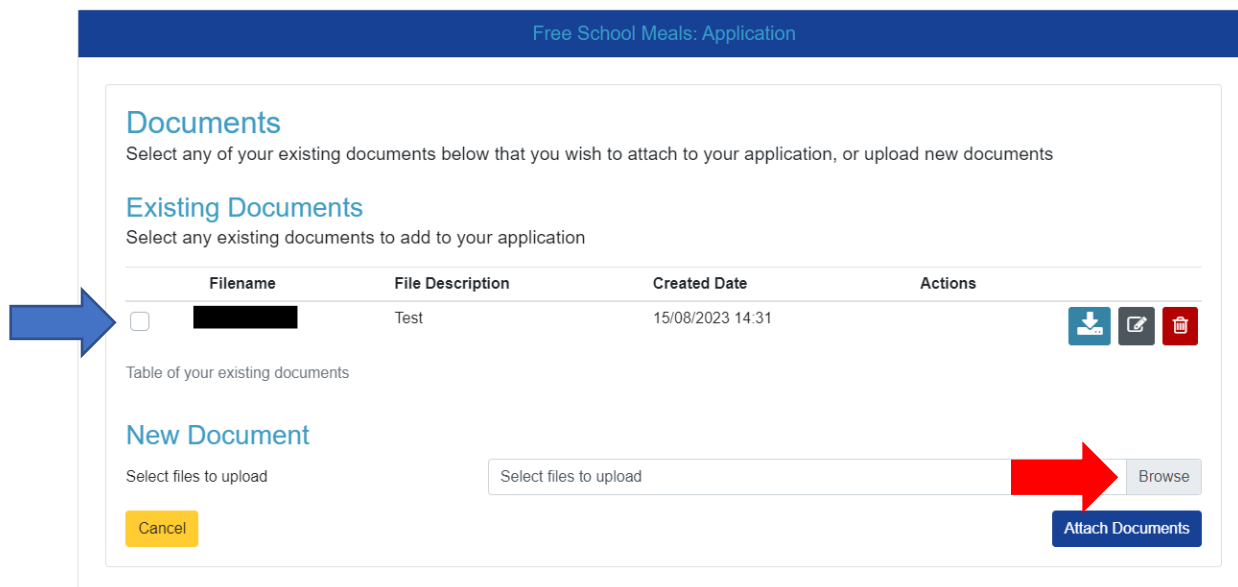
select the child you wish to apply for

[Back](#) [Next](#)

13. The next step is Add Documents. Here you can choose to upload any document which may help your application. For example, Universal Credit statements, previous eligibility letters or documents from HMRC. Please note it is not mandatory to add documents, if you do not wish to add a document simply tick the box 'Please confirm that you wish to proceed without attaching any documents' marked with a blue arrow and press submit application.



14. If you do wish to add a document press the 'Attach documents to application' button marked with a red arrow above. This will take you to the page below.



Filename	File Description	Created Date	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	Test	15/08/2023 14:31

15. Any documents you have already added to your account will appear here. Marked with a blue arrow. If you wish to add a document, please press the browse button marked with a

red arrow which will take you to your phone or computers files. Choose the file you would like to attach.

16. You will then see the below. Add a description of the document. For example, 'Universal Credit statement or 'Previous Eligibility Letter' and press attach documents.

Free School Meals: Application

Documents

Select any of your existing documents below that you wish to attach to your application, or upload new documents

Existing Documents

Select any existing documents to add to your application




	Filename	File Description	Created Date	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	[REDACTED]	Test	15/08/2023 14:31	  



Table of your existing documents

New Document

Select files to upload

Enter a description for each of your documents and click Attach Documents to start the upload

File description for Example Document.docx *



17. This will take you back to the below screen. Please tick the 'Please confirm the attached documents are correct' and press submit application.

Free School Meals: Application

1 ✓
Your Details

2 ✓
Select Children

3 ?
Add Documents

4
Your Results

Add Documents (3 of 4)

Attach documents to application

Filename	File Description	Created Date	Actions
Example Document.docx	Universal Credit Statement	24/10/2023 12:09	

Table of your selected documents for this application

Please confirm the attached documents are correct

Back
Submit Application

18. The next page will display the results of your Free School Meals check. In this example, the result is Not Found, No Trace – Check Data as generic data has been used for the purpose of this document. This result means that the information provided was not able to be matched with records found against HMRC. Therefore, some of the information you entered may not be correct. Please go back through the information you submitted and check your details are correct.

Free School Meals: Application

1 ✓
Your Details

2 ✓
Select Children

3 ✓
Add Documents

4 ✓
Your Results

Your Results (4 of 4)

✘ Result: *Not Found*

Qualifier: *No Trace - Check data*

Unfortunately the automated checking facilities provided by the DfE have not been able to tell us at this time whether or not you are eligible for Free School Meals. Your application has still been submitted - we will do a further check and may contact you for additional information.

Restart
Finish

Other results you may see include:

This is an eligible result:

Your Results

Result: *Found*

The automated checking facilities provided by the DfE indicate that you are eligible for Free School Meals, and we will be in touch with confirmation details. The school(s) at which your child(ren) attend(s) will be notified as soon as this application is fully processed.

This is a not eligible result:

Your Results(4 of 4)

Result: *Not Found*

Unfortunately, the automated checking facilities provided by the DfE has not been able to tell us at this time whether or not you are eligible for Free School Meals. Your application has still been submitted - we will do a further check and may contact you for additional information.

This is a not eligible (pending result). This is where changes are potentially occurring with your HMRC records, the eligibility checker cannot yet tell us immediately if you are eligible or not.

Your Results

Result: *Not Found*

Qualifier: *Pending - Keep checking*

Unfortunately, the automated checking facilities provided by the DfE has not been able to tell us immediately whether or not you are eligible for Free School Meals. Your application has been submitted - we will now carry out further checks which may require us contacting you for additional information.



19. Your application will now be with us for checking and processing. We will confirm the result with yourselves via a letter sent to the email address you used to create your account with. We will also confirm the result to the Child's School via email.

If you have issues with completing the online form. Please contact on 0330 222 5555 or email us at FSM@westsussex.gov.uk.