

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS Fact Sheet

### **Background**<sup>1</sup>

#### **Free school meals for infants in England**

Nationally, all young state school children are entitled to receive free school meals (FSM) in:

- Reception class
- Year 1
- Year 2

A child might be entitled to free school meals if their parent or guardian receives any of the following:

- 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 Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided 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 ceasing to qualify for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Children who are paid these benefits directly are also eligible for free school meals.

Further, a child might be entitled to free school meals if their parent or guardian receives any of the benefits listed above and the child is both:

- Younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- In full-time education

### **Link with socio-economic disadvantage and the Pupil Premium**

Each year, the government allocates funds to state schools to support disadvantaged pupils via the pupil premium based on free school meal eligibility to measure pupil socioeconomic disadvantage. The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Gov.UK. Apply for Free School Meals. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

<sup>2</sup> Gov.UK. Pupil premium: funding and accountability for schools. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

## **The Local Picture**

The following table shows the percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals in each Sutton ward. The source is the school census that takes place each term. This data is as at January 2017.

**Fig. 1: Free School Meal Uptake by ward**

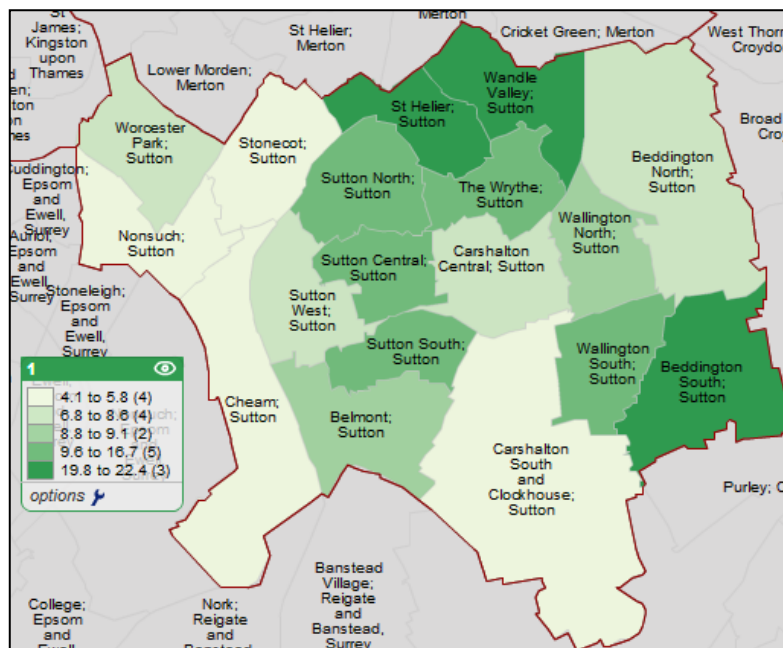
<b>Home Ward of Child in Sutton School</b>	<b>% Eligible</b>
Beddington North	7.1%
Beddington South	21.5%
Belmont	8.8%
Carshalton Central	6.8%
Carshalton South and Clockhouse	5.3%
Cheam	5.2%
Nonsuch	5.8%
St Helier	22.4%
Stonecot	4.1%
Sutton Central	16.7%
Sutton North	9.6%
Sutton South	9.6%
Sutton West	7.0%
The Wrythe	16.4%
Wallington North	9.1%
Wallington South	12.3%
Wandle Valley	19.8%
Worcester Park	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.5%</b>

### **Caveats and points**

- The percentages presented are based on the ward of residence for Sutton pupils.
- They do not include Sutton children residents who attend schools outside the borough.
- The statistics are likely to be an undercount because it is known that some parents of children who are eligible for Free School Meals will not register this with their school and will purchase their meals instead.
- Children in Key Stage 1 receive free meals from Reception through to Year 1 and 2 so there is no incentive to register.
- There is a fall in FSM statistics from primary to secondary school. Children in Special Schools or Pupil Referral Units have the highest percentages of eligibility for FSM.

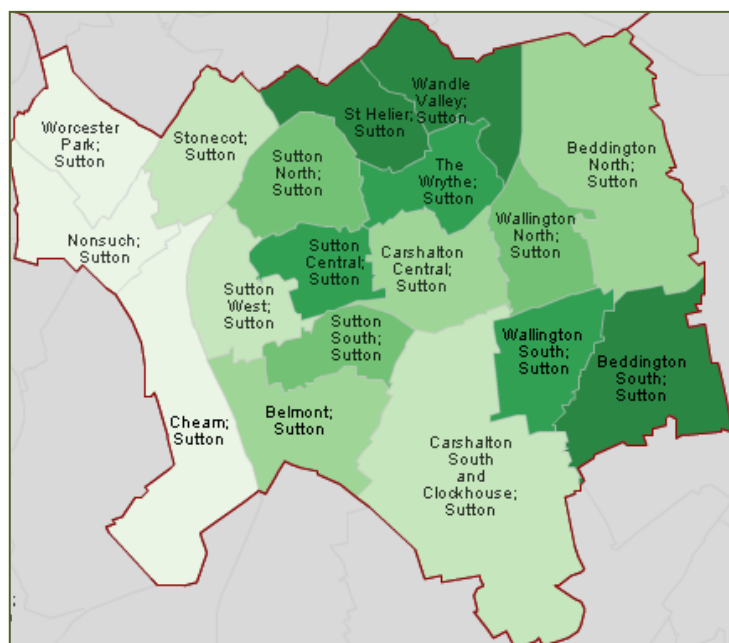
As would be expected, within Sutton there is a strong link with deprivation data.

**Fig. 2: Map of Free School Meal eligibility by ward**



To illustrate the link with deprivation, the map below shows the locally calculated summary ward Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 based on ranking within the borough (light relatively less deprived to darker shading relatively more deprived).

**Fig. 3: Map of Deprivation by Ward based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015**



## Progress in Sutton

- The London Borough of Sutton website provides information for parents and guardians on eligibility criteria for Free School Meals and how to apply.
- In Sutton, freshly prepared, hot nutritious meals are provided daily by Caterlink to 31 Primary and Special Schools and one Nursery School.

## Links to further information

- See the Sutton JSNA Fact Sheet on **Deprivation**
- London Borough of Sutton. Free School Meals.  
[https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200468/housing\\_benefit\\_and\\_council\\_tax/1288/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_pupil\\_premium](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200468/housing_benefit_and_council_tax/1288/free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium)
- London Borough of Sutton. School Meals.  
[https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200130/education\\_schools\\_and\\_nurseries/1382/school\\_meals](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200130/education_schools_and_nurseries/1382/school_meals)