

Food Support for Families in Richmond upon Thames

Access to Food Support and Food Donations

Is Your Child Eligible for Free School Meals?

Many families are entitled to free school meals but do not claim them. The process is simple and your application will be processed in two days. As well as the benefit of a hot nutritious meal every day, the school benefits by receiving £900 per child (known as the Pupil Premium) which is used to offer increased opportunities, equipment and books to support pupil learning. You are eligible if you receive **one** of the following benefits:

- 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 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 applied on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits payments)

Nursery aged children must be receiving education before and after lunch to be entitled to free school meals.

For more information and to apply [visit the Richmond Council website](#).

DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essentials

Managed by [Richmond AID](#) and [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) (CAR), this grant can support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19, subject to available funds up to 31st March 2021.

Eligibility:

Must be over 18 and live in the borough of Richmond and be struggling from the impact of Covid, for example:

- reduced pay or lost job
- benefits issues
- struggling to afford food and other essentials
- extra costs as a result of Covid

Individuals with no recourse to public funds are also eligible, particularly if:

- there are community care needs
- they have serious health problems
- there is a risk to a child's wellbeing

What can the grant be for?

You can apply for a grant for food, clothing or essential equipment. Other areas may be considered if evidence can be provided that it is essential.

Please note that they need to see evidence, such as your identification and proof of living in the borough (Driving Licence, utility bills, rent/mortgage letters, benefit letter) and bank account letters or other relevant identification. They will ask your permission to share information to reduce any duplication.

Referrals

[Richmond AID](#) and [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) will talk to you and assess your needs and eligibility and advise you on a range of different options or support available to you.

Richmond AID - www.richmondaid.org.uk

Richmond AID can support people with long term health conditions, disabilities or carers. Call 020 8831 6464 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm) or email advice@richmondaid.org.uk.

Citizen Advice Richmond - www.citizensadvice-richmond.org

Citizen Advice Richmond supports all residents living in the borough of Richmond. Call 0300 330 2114 (Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm) or email [via their online webform here](#).

Organisations can refer clients directly [using the webform here](#).

Richmond Foodbank

In order to get help from the Richmond Foodbank you need to get a foodbank voucher from a local referring agency. You can call or email the Foodbank to talk through your situation and be put in touch with a relevant local agency. Visit www.richmond.foodbank.org.uk, email foodbank@vineyardcommunity.org or call 020 8894 0274.

Alternatively, you can phone [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) who are a local foodbank voucher agency.

[Richmond Advice and Information on Disability \(RAID\)](#) are currently operating a food hub with items donated by local people. For their help, call 020 8831 6070 or email info@richmondaid.org.uk.

[Ruils](#) is a local charity that supports children and adults with disabilities and the elderly to live independently. They are currently operating a food hub with items donated by local people. If you need their help call 020 8831 6083 or email info@ruils.co.uk.

[The Real Junk Food Project Twickenham](#) offers weekly café sessions at the [ETNA Centre](#) in St Margarets and [The Greenwood Centre](#) in Hampton Hill, where they use surplus fresh food from local businesses to create hot lunches and provide surplus food for you to take away. It operates on a pay what you can basis and you do not need to pay anything. For weekly opening times [visit the TRJFProject website](#), email trjfp.twickenham@gmail.com or call 020 8892 0590.

PLEASE NOTE: face to face service has been suspended during lockdown (5 November 2020 - 2 December 2020) - check the website for alternative arrangements for distribution of surplus food.

Advice and Guidance - help to access grants, benefits, debt management support and more

Citizens Advice Richmond can provide support and advice across all aspects of family life including housing, debt, benefit entitlements and employment matters. Visit www.citizensadvice-richmond.org or call 0300 330 2114.

Crosslight provides debt and money advice. It is part of the Community Money Advice Network of debt advice agencies and has an office in Twickenham. It supports people to combat debt and hardship caused by the burden of unmanageable debt and lack of financial capability. Visit www.crosslightadvice.org or call 020 7052 0318.

South West London Law Centres offer free and independent legal advice on social welfare issues including housing, debt, immigration and employment. Visit www.swllc.org or call 020 8767 2777.

Richmond Council "I Need Help" Online Directory brings together a wide range of support available locally, including food and financial help. [View the Directory here.](#)

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