

Dear School Principal /Free School Meals Administration Staff,

Date as postmark

### **Change to Free School Meals and Uniform Grant Criteria**

We are writing to advise you of the introduction of an additional new criterion to receive free meals and uniform grants.

Currently, in order to be eligible for free meals and uniform grants, the criteria require the parent/guardian to be in receipt of one of the following:

- \* Income Support;
- \* Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- \* Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- \* Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- \* Working/Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income not exceeding £16,190;

Or

- \* Parent/Guardian is an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

### **New Additional Criterion as from 27 September 2017:**

The parent/guardian/pupil to be in receipt of:

- \* **Universal Credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.**

Universal Credit will eventually replace the five existing welfare benefit based criteria. It is expected the five benefits will be phased out and replaced by Universal Credit by March 2022. The new additional Universal Credit criterion will be added to the existing criteria and changes will apply from the roll-out of Universal Credit, scheduled to begin on 27 September 2017.

For further information regarding the introduction of Universal Credit please visit the following website - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universal-credit>

New application forms will be available to download from the EA website as from 27 September 2017 or on request to the Free School Meals and Uniform Department.

Yours faithfully,

Meals and Uniform Section