

My ref: Covid Support – Summer Holidays CCC
Date: 13th July 2021
Contact: Please contact your school
for more information



People & Communities
Education Directorate

To Parents/Carers of pupils in
Cambridgeshire Schools and Early Years
Settings

Dear Parent / Carer,

Covid Support Grant and Summer Holidays

We are pleased to announce that we will be supporting children eligible for free school meals during the forthcoming Summer holidays and will maintain the level of support provided in the last 8 months.

Maintaining the level of previous support has been made possible when the County Council, run by the new Joint Administration, agreed to allocate additional funding to supplement a substantially reduced Government Grant.

The final round of funding announced by the Government on the 21st June 2021 represents less than half of the funding from the original Christmas holiday scheme. To enable continuous support, a further £570,000 has been allocated by the Council. This letter outlines the offer we will be making to these eligible families during the holidays.

Direct Food Voucher Scheme

In line with previous rounds of grant funding, we will continue our Direct Food Voucher Scheme. Over the six-week summer holiday period, two supermarket vouchers will be allocated to parents / carers whose child or children meet the following criteria:

- Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income-based criteria (children aged 2)
- Early Years Pupil Premium under the income-based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)
- Eligible for Free School Meals in Primary and Secondary schools (children and young people aged 4 to 16).
- Students in Sixth Forms eligible for Free School meals (young people aged 16-19).

If your child receives Universal Infant Free School Meals (in Reception, Y1 and Y2) but you do not meet the criteria for Income-Related Free School Meals, you will **not** be eligible for a supermarket voucher during the summer holiday period.

A detailed list of criteria and information on [how to apply for income related free school meals](#) are attached to this letter. If you have any further queries in relation to free school meal entitlement please contact our Education Welfare Benefits Team on ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or telephone them on 01223 703200.

How the vouchers work

We will issue each eligible child/young person with –

- a first £42 supermarket voucher by the end of the day on 23rd July
- a second £42 supermarket voucher by the end of the day on 13th August

The vouchers will be sent by email and text to the nominated parent or carer. The vouchers do not need to be used in a single shopping trip and once claimed will last for at least a year. Details of available supermarkets can be found in the frequently asked questions document enclosed with this letter. Please note it is important to select your supermarket to officially 'claim' the vouchers. All unclaimed (e.g. when the supermarket had not been selected) vouchers will be withdrawn on the **24th September**.

New eligible families application deadline: 13 August

To allocate the vouchers we will use a system called Wonde, using the information already held by schools, settings and the Local Authority. If your child is eligible for income-related free school meals, or meets any of the other criteria shown above, on or before the 20th July, they will automatically receive the two vouchers on the dates set out above. Additionally, any children who become eligible after 20th July and by the 13th August will receive the vouchers; these will be sent as and when we are notified.

If you **do not** wish to receive the food vouchers, please let your school or setting know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate them.

If you have not received your voucher **by the 26th July (voucher 1) or the 19th August (voucher 2)** or have any queries about this scheme, please contact winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Please include the name of your child, their date of birth and which education establishment they attend in all correspondence. This will avoid a delay in responding to your query.

Wider Support

We understand that as a result of the pandemic, there are many families eligible for the Direct Food Voucher Scheme that may need further support. We also know there will be families who don't meet the above criteria but still require support. In recognition of this, we have established a network of hubs run by the city and district councils that will be able to help these families throughout the summer holiday period in preparation for the return to school in the Autumn Term. Details of support in your local area can be found below:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport

This support can include information and advice, as well as further food and fuel support or access to other essential supplies.

If you are unable to access the information online, you can call your local hub on 0345 045 5219. The team is available Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

The new Joint Administration for the County Council has committed to provide support to the children and their families in recognition of ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We wish you to stay safe and well during the forthcoming Summer Holidays and beyond.

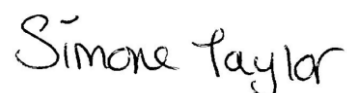
Yours sincerely,



Councillor Bryony Goodliffe
Chair, Children and Young
People Committee



Councillor Maria King
Vice Chair, Children and Young
People Committee



Councillor Simone Taylor
Independent Spokesperson
Children and Young People
Committee

Appendix 1 – Eligibility for Direct Voucher Scheme

Parents eligible for Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income-based criteria (children aged 2)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

Parents eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium under the income based criteria (children aged 3 and 4)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- Support under [part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

<https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

Parents eligible for Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of 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 you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you wish to apply for a free school meal, please apply online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or www.peterborough.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Eligible for 16-19 Free School Meals

Free meals in further education defines disadvantage as students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Free meals in further education funded institutions: guide for the 2020 to 2021 academic year - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-guide-for-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year)

How to Claim Free School Meals

We understand that families continue to live in uncertain times and many are facing changes to their financial circumstances as a result. If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, or your name has recently changed, and feel you now meet the below criteria, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply online;

- Income Support.
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190.
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week.
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.

Also schools are continuing to provide support for eligible families, in the form of either food parcels or vouchers, during term-time where pupils are unable to attend. Your school will be able to confirm the support that they are offering. The form is simple to complete and will give you an immediate response.