

Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances 2025-26

We are getting ready to launch applications for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances for the school year beginning September 2025 - and hope the following will be helpful to you in communicating with parents and carers.

Applications will open on EA Connect the week commencing 9 June 2025.

Social Media Toolkit

Each year, there are many families who would be eligible to apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance, but who neglect to do so.

In order to help us promote awareness of Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance applications for September 2025, we have developed a social media toolkit which you may wish to use on your own communication channels.

The toolkit - [which can be accessed using this link](#) - includes graphics and text with key information, as well as a schedule of suggested dates for sharing the content on your channels.

Pupil Lists

You may wish to consider obtaining a list of 2024/25 eligible pupils from AnyComms+ so that you can encourage those eligible parents/carers to submit an application this year.

They should be encouraged to apply by the last Friday in July to guarantee support is in place for 1 September.

If you require further information about accessing Pupil Lists, please email the dedicated email address for schools at mealsanduniformschools@eani.org.uk



We are very grateful to you for your continued support throughout the academic year, particularly with sharing key information and updates with your school communities.

Proof of Benefit Letters

Parents/carers in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, will need to upload a Proof of Benefit Letter with their application.

Qualifying social security benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit



A Proof of Benefit Letter can be requested by [visiting this website](#). As it can take at least five days to obtain the letter, applicants are advised to request it now in advance of the launch.

We ask you to remind your parent community of this requirement - **as applications cannot be processed until we receive all supporting documentation for the applicant.**

Universal Credit recipients

Parents or carers who receive Universal Credit and whose net household earnings do not exceed £15,000 per year (£1250 per month or less) are eligible to apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance.

While they do not need a Proof of Benefit letter, they are required to upload evidence of their Universal Credit entitlement via their most recent Universal Credit Claimant Statement when they apply.

If parents/carers have difficulty in obtaining a Proof of Benefit Letter, or do not understand how to provide evidence of their Universal Credit, **their local Jobs + Benefit office Digital Hub** will have staff on hand to help them obtain the correct evidence to support their application. Parents/carers should telephone their local office to make an appointment.

Extra help for parents/carers on the EA website:

- Information on applying
- FAQs
- Helpdesk contact details
- Videos and supporting documents



Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance



Further Assistance - Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance Helpdesk

The FSMU Helpdesk is available from Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm by telephone on **028 9047 0233** or email mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk