

NEWSLETTER

Changes in Free School Meals qualifying benefits:

THE CRITERIA FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS HAS CHANGED WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2018.

WHILST THE DEPARTMENT FOR WORKS AND PENSIONS ARE ROLLING OUT UNIVERSAL CREDIT, THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA APPLIES:

- Any pupil eligible for FSM before 1st April 2018 will continue to receive free school meals until **31st March 2022**.
- Any pupil who becomes eligible during the rollout of the Universal Credit (from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2022) will keep their eligibility until **31st March 2022**.
- Once the rollout of Universal Credit is complete (expected date 31 March 2022) any pupil who would cease to qualify for FSM will continue to be transitionally protected until the end of their current phase of education e.g. Primary/Secondary.
- Pupils will keep their eligibility even if their parent's circumstances change between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2022.
- Transitional protection does not apply to siblings who will be starting new in September. New siblings cannot be added to existing claims.
- FSM claims cannot be backdated under any circumstances. The award is only valid from the date of authorisation.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

We will be sending a communication regarding GDPR, kindly return your declarations; we will not be able to share any pupil information without these declarations.

FSM Updates:

We understand all schools are actively processing their new starters for September 2018, and this is a busy time for you. However, our application process is strictly online. We do not accept paper applications. FSM applications for new starters and transfers need to be completed separately online; we will be accepting these from 1st July 2018.

Many thanks,

Eram Khawaja & Jyoti Dacruz

The Free School Meals and School Uniform Grants team

020 3949 7743

Schoolmeals@Hounslow.gov.uk