

Our Ref: AMDM/SK
Your Ref:

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To: Parents/Carers

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Dear Parents/Carers

Direct payment of Free School Meals for Easter Holiday

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals will shortly receive a payment of £25.00 to cover the Easter holiday period from 31 March 2025 to 11 April 2025. Please note – statutory free school meals are awarded to parents/carers based on their income circumstances. The holiday payment does not apply to children in Primary 1 to 5 who are entitled to universal free school meals or children in Primary 6 to 7 who are entitled to free school meals due to parents being in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment (which are not income based).

Do I need to apply for this funding and when will I receive payment?

Eligible families already in receipt of statutory free school meals, do not have to apply for this payment. Payment will be made direct to your nominated bank account on **28 March 2025**.

I have recently applied for Free School Meals, but I've not been notified of the outcome

If you have recently applied for income based free school meals, please be assured that we are dealing with all applications as quickly as possible, and we will contact you direct when your application has been processed.

Families who are on a low income but not currently in receipt of free school meals can check entitlement by completing the following online form:

[Check entitlement and apply for free school meals](#)

Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The current qualifying benefits and allowances are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance

- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £19,995
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £9,552
- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly net pay from your employer of less than £796 (this is based on your actual net pay, not the figure used by Universal Credit)
(the qualifying benefits and allowances are subject to change)

If you are aged 16-18 years-old and receive any of the above qualifying benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals.

Parents of children in Primary 6 / 7 who are in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment

We recently contacted all parents and carers of Primary 6 and 7 pupils to inform you that your child **may now be eligible for Free School Meals** if you receive the **Scottish Child Payment (SCP)**.

Even if you do not qualify under the standard income-based criteria, your child **may still be eligible** under this new scheme introduced by the Scottish Government. This expansion **currently applies only to Primary 6 and 7 pupils and does not currently extend to secondary school students.**

If your child is receiving Free School Meals in **Primary 7 under this scheme**, please note that this entitlement will **end on 4th July 2025** when they transition to secondary school. We will send a reminder closer to the time..

If you receive the **Scottish Child Payment** and have a child in **Primary 6 or Primary 7**, but have not yet applied, you can do so here: [Apply for Free School Meals SCP](#)

If you have a child in **Primary 5 who will be moving to Primary 6 after the summer**, you **do not need to take any action at this time**. We will contact you again just before the summer break with details on how to apply.

For more information please visit: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/assistance/free-school-meals/>

Further information on the new Scottish Child Payment from Social Security Scotland can also be found at www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment.

Yours sincerely



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