

Our Ref: AMDM/JF
Your Ref:

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Head of Resources & Performance

To: Parents/Carers

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Dear Parents/Carers

Direct payment of Free School Meals for Summer Holidays 2026

All pupils currently entitled to statutory free school meals will shortly receive a payment of £77.50 to cover the Summer holiday period from 3 July 2026 to 14 August 2026. 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

3 July 2026

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:

- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance

Parents-Carers - FSM - Summer Holidays 2026 ENGLISH

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- Support under Part VI of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Universal Credit with a monthly net pay from your employer of less than £ 995 (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

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.**

For more information and to submit an application 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.

Please note that the Free School Meals team (fsm@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) is responsible only for assessing eligibility for free school meals. If you have any queries about your child's iPay account—such as balance or login issues—please call 03456 081202 or email ECImpactPayQueries@aberdeenshire.gov.uk More information is available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/online-payments/>

Yours sincerely



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