

Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances 2026-27

Applications can now be made on EA Connect for the 2026/27 school year.

We hope the following will be helpful to you in communicating with parents and carers.

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.

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 2026, we again include 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 for you to share with your parent community on the suggested dates throughout the next few months. This links in with the dates of EA Social media posts.

Pupil Lists

You may wish to consider obtaining a list of 2025/26 eligible pupils from AnyComms+ so that you can make contact with and encourage those eligible parents/carers to submit an application for the 2026/27 school year.

All parents/carers should be encouraged to apply by the last Friday in July to guarantee that 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**

Universal Credit recipients

Parents or carers who receive Universal Credit and whose net household earnings do not exceed £15,900 per year (£1325 per month or less) are eligible to apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance.

Applicants are required to upload evidence of their Universal Credit entitlement via all pages of their most recent Universal Credit Claimant Statement when they apply.



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 Related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit**

A Proof of Benefit Letter can be requested by [visiting this website](#). It can take at least five days to obtain the letter.

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.

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

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