

Schools Household Support Fund FAQ

During the following school holidays October Half Term, Christmas Break, February Half Term and Easter break, Enfield council will be providing free school meal children and 2500 children who have been identified with a £15 per week food voucher.

- **How do I get a food voucher?**

If you are eligible for a food voucher, your school will be contact you via email or text message.

If you need to change your telephone number or email address, please contact your school to make your changes so they can update their records

- **My child attends an academy school – does this still apply to me?**

Yes, the scheme is for all children in the borough who attend an Enfield School.

- **I live in the borough of Enfield, but my child goes to a school outside the borough of Enfield, does this scheme apply to me?**

Please contact your child's school directly to find out the scheme that applies to the school your child attends. All councils have received funding to supply free school meals and will be working with their local schools.

- **How do I get registered?**

If you are in receipt of free school meals or have been identified already and attend an Enfield School, your school will automatically receive a food voucher.

If you think that you may be eligible for a free school meal and have not registered for free school meals, then please see the link below to apply. In addition, please contact your school as all the registration needs to happen via your school.

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/school-welfare-and-information/school-meals/>

- **I live in Enfield, but my child has special needs and usually attends an Independent school. Does this apply to me?**

Please contact your child's school.

- **How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?**

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals or you're not sure, please speak to your child's school.

To be eligible for free school meals the parent or carer must receive one of the following benefits:

- ✓ Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- ✓ Child Tax Credit only (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.

- ✓ Working Tax Credit is a disqualifying benefit regardless of your household income – this means that you would not be entitled to free school meals while in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ✓ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ✓ Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ✓ The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Please see the link below for more information but in the first instance it is recommended that you talk to your school.

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/school-welfare-and-information/school-meals/>

- **My child is in Year group R, 1, 2 and we usually get free school meals, will I still receive a voucher?**

Children in year group Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive universal infant school meals. The household support grant does not extend to all universal infant school meals children. Only those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who are also entitled to Free School Meals.

- **Is there a limit to the number of payments I get?**

You would receive the £15 voucher per child per week for every child who is eligible for free school meals attending an Enfield school. For example, if you have 2 children you would receive £60 (£15 per week for two weeks for two children).

If your child attends an out of Enfield school, please contact the child's school directly.

- **How do I redeem my payment?**

The majority of schools will be sending Edenred food vouchers, please visit Edenred to redeem your vouchers <https://www.edenred.co.uk/en/free-school-meals/>. Some schools will be using other voucher systems, which they have been using for over a year, for further support or advice on these please speak with your child's school.

- **When will the payments expire?**

Payments will expire after 30 days if there have not been redeemed.

- **What can the payments be spent on?**

This can be spent on food for the children.

- **Does this replace my food bank vouchers?**

No, this does not replace food bank vouchers. For more information about help with food see the section 'Help with food' under 'Help with food, fuel, water bills and other essentials' tab on website: <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/enfield-response-to-covid-19/financial-hardship/>

- **I am in financial hardship but not eligible for free school meals. What support is available? For example, we are a family with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).**

You can find detailed government guidance for the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups on the GOV.UK website. Please contact your school to apply for free school meals under this category.

Eligibility for free school meals has temporarily been extended to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). These groups are:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 **who are also** subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

These groups are subject to a maximum household income threshold of £31,500 per year for London.

Temporarily eligibility has also been extended to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This group is not subject to a maximum household income threshold as these families are not able to work.