

Free School Meals and Uniform/Physical Education Allowances for School Year 2023/24

I would like to provide an update on the upcoming 2023/24 application process for Free School Meals and School Uniform/Physical Education Clothing Allowances.

All parents/guardians are required to apply via the [EA website](#)

Parents/Guardians whose child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (Stage 3) and requires a special diet should contact the Meals and Uniform Section for a paper application form if they wish to apply under the special diet criterion. Those who received this support for the current school year (2022/2023) have been sent a pre-populated paper form to complete and return.

The Education Authority (EA) issues communications on the EA website and social media channels to inform parents/guardians of the process for the coming year. Parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of support for the 2022/23 school year will receive an e-mail highlighting the need to apply for the 2023/24 school year and the process to do so.

We continue to seek your support to promote awareness of Free School Meals and Uniform Allowances and to encourage all potential applicants to apply for the support available before **28 July** to ensure all is in place for the new school year in September 2023.

We have attached an informational leaflet and poster for displaying, which outline the process and what is required to apply.

It is important for all applicants to read and understand what supporting documentation is required for their application. Information on this can also be found on the EA website, via the link above.

Applicants in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit must upload a Proof of Benefit Letter, which can be obtained by visiting this [link](#).

A Free Schools Meals and Uniform Allowance Helpdesk is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals/Uniform Allowance service.

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

Education Authority

40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ

T: +44 (0)28 9056 4000 **F:** +44 (0)28 9033 1714 **W:** www.eani.org.uk

It is available to assist parents and guardians who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email:

mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk.

The telephone number which should be used for all enquiries is 028 9041 8044.

Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2023/24 school year and a list of Frequently Asked Questions to assist with any parental queries can be accessed by visiting our [website](#).

Thank you for your continued assistance in relation to the provision of free school meals and uniform grants to eligible children.

Peter Canavan
Head of Admissions and Financial Support

Email: Peter.Canavan@eani.org.uk

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