

Winhills Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Off Duck Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2DX
Tel: 01480 211626 Fax: 01480 479869 email: office@winhills.cambs.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt) NPQH
Head of School: Mr John Turner BSc PGCE

20th April 2018

Dear Parents

Free School Meals - Changes to Entitlement

We are writing to let you know about a change that the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced on April 1st 2018 to enable more low-income working families to receive Free School Meals.

As of April 1st the Income Threshold for all families receiving or going onto Universal Credit (UC) is £7,400.

All children receiving Free School Meals under the old criteria will continue to receive Free School Meals until March 2022 and the end of their current school phase.

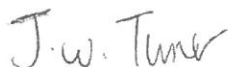
For every child who is entitled to Free School Meals, the school is entitled to unlock additional funding to support their development. **It is therefore important to apply for Free School Meals if you think there is a chance your child/children might be eligible, even if they are currently in Reception or KS1 and receive Universal Free School Meals.**

We have enclosed an application form to complete and would be grateful if you could complete this and return it to the school office, if you think your child/children might be eligible. We would encourage you to complete it if you are not sure. Further information is available from the School Office, or from

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

For any queries about the changes or claim process you can contact the Education Welfare Benefit Team by email on EWB.FSM@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone on 01223 703200, or speak to the school office.

Kind Regards,



Mr John Turner

Headteacher

On behalf of Winhills Primary Academy (Part of the DLPT)

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Changes to Free School Meals for families on or going on to Universal Credit as from 1st April 2018



What are the changes being made?

Following a recent consultation by the Department for Education (DfE), there will be a **new income threshold** for all families receiving or going onto Universal Credit (UC).

From 1st April 2018, the new Income Threshold will be **£7,400 net (take home pay)**. This change means more low-income working families will be entitled.

During the roll out period of UC across the Country, (until March 2022), the DfE have implemented a Transitional Protection for children currently receiving free school meals.

What does Transitional Protection mean?

The transitional protections will ensure that existing recipients of FSM will NOT lose their entitlement following the introduction of the new eligibility criteria.

- **All children receiving Free School Meals under the old criteria will continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of the UC roll out in March 2022, and until the end of their current school phase.**
i.e. if in March 2022 they are in NCY 4, they will receive FSM until end of NCY 6, (end of Primary Phase). If a child in March 2022 is in NCY 9 they will receive FSM until end of NCY 11, (end of Secondary Phase)
- Any child who was previously in receipt of Early Year Pupil Premium (EYPP), while receiving their universal three and four year old entitlement, will have their parents details reassessed to see if they qualify for FSM for the beginning of their Reception Year.
- **All children that become entitled under the new criteria from the 1st April 2018 up to the completion of the roll out of UC (March 2022), will also continue to receive Free School Meals until the end of current school phase**
i.e. if in March 2022 they are in NCY 4, they will receive FSM until end of NCY 6, (end of Primary Phase). If a child in March 2022 is in NCY 9 they will receive FSM until end of NCY 11, (end of Secondary Phase).

More Guidance will be sent to schools shortly from the DfE about “Key to Success” and how the data will need to be recorded shortly

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Other economic criteria for Free School Meals which are not affected by the UC implementation are;

- Part 6 of Immigration and Asylum ACT 1999 and the
- Guarantee element of state pension credit

Next Stage

The EWB Service will recheck all previous rejected claims (since 2015) to assess whether any new families are now entitled under the new eligibility criteria from April 2018. Please don't resend in any SIMS files for batch bulk checking at this time, unless they are for new children only. We have all the claims on our system and will be working through them to identify the families that will now be entitled.

Website and Application forms will also be updated to reflect the new eligibility criteria.

Please contact EWB team if you have any questions about the new eligibility criteria for FSM.

01223 703200 or ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

March 2018