

19th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Important Update Regarding Free School Meal Holiday Food Vouchers

We are writing to inform you of an important change to the financial support available during school holidays for families eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

Following the end of the summer holidays, the holiday food voucher scheme that has previously been provided during school breaks has now come to an end. Please be assured that Free School Meals during term time will continue for all eligible pupils.

This change is a result of the UK Government ending the Household Support Fund (HSF), which funded holiday food vouchers in recent years. The replacement funding programme, known as the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), has different criteria and does not allow funding to be used for universal FSM holiday voucher schemes. As a result, local authorities are no longer able to continue providing holiday food vouchers.

We understand that this news may be disappointing and that many families continue to face financial pressures. We therefore wanted to share details of some of the support that remains available.

#### National Support Available

The Government has announced a range of measures designed to support families, including:

- The removal of the two-child limit in Universal Credit from April 2026.
- Expansion of the Warm Home Discount to help more households with energy costs.
- Extension of Free School Meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit from September 2026.
- Continued funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme until 2029.
- Expanded childcare support for eligible families receiving Universal Credit.
- Local Support Available

Families may also be able to access a range of support services locally, including:

- Welfare benefits advice and support to maximise household income.
- Financial and debt advice services.
- Assistance through local community organisations.
- Citizens Advice out-of-hours support via telephone or text on 0161 850 5053.
- Support through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.
- Local welfare assistance schemes that may provide emergency support with food, energy costs and other essential items.

If you feel that your family may benefit from any of the support outlined above, we encourage you to seek advice as early as possible.

Head of school: Miss Wright    CEO : Mr M H Tonge BEd MA NPQH NLE



Further information can be found by visiting:

[www.bolton.gov.uk/freeschoolmealvouchers](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/freeschoolmealvouchers)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Wright

Headteacher

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