

To: All Principals

May 2019

Free School Meals/School Uniform/Physical Education Clothing Allowance 2019-20

The application process for assessment of eligibility to the above entitlements has commenced. An application form has been posted to the parent/guardian home address of children currently entitled to free school meals advising that a new application has to be completed for the 2019-20 school year.

Forms prior to 2019-20 should not be given out to parents/guardians but should be discarded.

Enclosed is a small batch of 2019-20 application forms and notes for information for potential new applicants. **The application form and notes for information can also be accessed from the EA website** – <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>

Applicants can request an application form from the Meals and Uniform Section (contact details below) or from their local Social Security Agency or Citizens Advice Bureau.

Parents/Guardians whose child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (Stage 5) and requires a special diet should contact the Meals and Uniform Section if they wish to apply under the special diet criteria.

It is important that a school should not give free school meals to any pupil until the Education Authority issues authorisation.

The Education Authority continues to seek your support to promote awareness of Free School Meals and Clothing Allowances and to encourage all potential applicants to apply for the support available. Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2019-20 school year can be accessed by logging onto <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>

It should be noted that the Authority is currently exploring the options to provide an online platform for parents to apply for free school meals and uniform in the future and the views of principals and parents will be actively sought as part of that process.

Meals and Uniform Section

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

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