

30 March 2020

Letter to Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carers,

FSM Vouchers – Update

Following the recent information released from the government on the Free School Meal (FSM) voucher scheme we have now had to review our allocation of FSM supermarket vouchers.

We are writing to inform you that as from 6th April 2020 we will no longer be able to provide FSM vouchers to pupils in Key stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), who qualified previously under the government funded 'Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)', unless your child is also registered for FSM.

We understand that we are currently within challenging times and that circumstances for families may have changed and therefore we would encourage those parents that meet the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals to apply via the government website or by contacting your Local Authority directly.

Note: The Government website will allow you to enter your postcode and then direct you to the Local Authority (LA) website.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

The criteria for FSM, which are also detailed on the above website, are as follows:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- 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
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

When we have received notification from the LA that your child has qualified for FSM, we will once again restart to issue FSM vouchers.

This was a difficult decision, but one we hope you understand to ensure that supermarket vouchers are issued to those most in need.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jo Sercombe
Head of Academy