



CDE/CMS/FSM

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Important Update – Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

I am writing to make parents and carers aware of an important change to the Free School Meal (FSM) holiday food voucher scheme.

Bolton Council has advised me that they are also contacting affected families directly. However, I wanted to make sure that our families are aware that, following the summer holidays, the FSM holiday food voucher scheme has now ended.

This change is due to the Government's Household Support Fund coming to an end. The replacement funding available to local authorities has different criteria and cannot be used to continue the previous universal FSM holiday voucher scheme.

Please be reassured that this does not affect your child's Free School Meal entitlement during term time. Eligible pupils will continue to receive their usual free school meal in school.

I appreciate that the withdrawal of holiday vouchers may have an impact on some families. Bolton Council has advised that a range of support remains available, including:

- financial, benefits and debt advice;
- emergency help with food, energy and other essential costs;
- the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme; and
- support through local community organisations and Citizens Advice.

For more information about the support available, please visit www.bolton.gov.uk/freeschoolmealvouchers.

Information about the Holiday Activities and Food programme can also be found at www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF.

I understand that this may be disappointing news for families who have previously received support through the holiday voucher scheme. I wanted to make sure that parents and carers were aware of this change ahead of the next school holiday and signpost families to the support that remains available.

If you have any questions about your child's Free School Meal entitlement, please contact the school.

Regards

C. Dewse

C. Dewse
Headteacher