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Dear Principal /Free School Meals Administration Staff

Change to Free School Meals and Uniform Grant Criteria

We are writing to advise you about the introduction of an additional new criterion to receive free meals and uniform grants.

Currently, in order to be eligible for free meals and uniform grants, the criteria require the parent/guardian to be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support;
 - Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance;
 - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
 - Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
 - Working/Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income not exceeding £16,190;
- Or
- Parent/Guardian is an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

New Additional Criterion as from 27 September 2017:

The parent/guardian/pupil to be in receipt of:

- **Universal Credit with a net earnings threshold of £14,000.**

Universal Credit will eventually replace the five existing welfare benefit based criteria. It is expected the five benefits will be phased out and replaced by Universal Credit by March 2022. The new additional Universal Credit criterion will be added to the existing criteria and changes will apply from the roll-out of Universal Credit, scheduled to begin on 27 September 2017.

For further information regarding the introduction of Universal Credit please visit the following website - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universal-credit>

Old forms should not be given to parents/guardians/pupils after 27 September 2017. New application forms will be available to download from the EA website - <http://www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/>

Yours sincerely,



Sharon Clarke
Meals and Uniform Section

Save ££££s...

Apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Grant TODAY!

For more information on eligibility and
how to apply visit www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to



Eligibility to Free School Meals and Uniform Grant is subject to
Department of Education Criteria and Education Authority Approval