

Universal Free School Meal in Leeds Q&A

See also <http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/schoolfoodplan/uifsm/uifsm-faqs>

Simon Darby

| Question | Answer |
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| Will current funding be maintained and the £2.30 be additional to this? | The funding for universal FSM is new and is in addition to all current funding. There is no information as to whether the grant is ring-fenced. |
| Do parents eligible for FSM still need to apply? How will this affect Pupil Premium allocations? | Parents continue to need to apply for FSM. Pupil Premium for 2014/15 will be allocated based on pupils on roll as at January 2014. The Department of Education is to review how pupil premium will operate for 2015/16 onwards. |
| How can we encourage parents to apply for FSM which is the trigger for Pupil Premium when the children are going to receive their meals for free. This will result in a lower number of children being recognised as being eligible for PP in the future | In the pilot authorities there was the opposite impact, in that a higher number of parents came forward and registered. The registration process is not simply for FSM, it also covers Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. |
| Will we continue to get listings of children who are entitled to FSM for parents who are not working etc? | Lists of those pupils eligible for FSM under the benefits criteria will continue to be provided to schools (and academies that buy in the service). The new grant may only be claimed for meals provided to pupils not eligible to receive a free school meal through the normal eligibility criteria. |
| How will Pupil Premium be calculated. | Pupil premium is unchanged, and remains based on pupils on roll as at the January PLASC who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last 6 years. The DfE is to review the process for 2015/16 to see if any changes are required |
| What happens to the funding after March 2016? | At present there can be no further commitment due to the Government only making spending decisions for a limited number of years at a time, although there appears to be a wish to look at extending the scheme to other year groups that implies that funding will continue. |
| Is the £2.30 per head ring fenced? | There is no information as to whether the grant is ring-fenced. |

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| Do we keep the saving on meals that cost less than £2.30? | There are no further details other than that the data collection will be through the School Census and that the grant will be paid at £2.30 per meal taken. |
| Is the UFSM funding for 'under 7s' or does it include 7 year olds? If the former what are the plans/advice for what happens as children turn 7 during Year 2 | The term under 7 is based on the age as at 31 st August prior to the start of the academic year. Entitlement will continue until the end of the academic year in which a child turns 7. |
| Are there any plans to roll out free school milk for all reception and KS1 children? | The provision of Free School Milk is not covered by this initiative. |

Charlotte Foley

| Question | Answer |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checking Catering Leeds are not the only ones undertaking kitchen audit – our school does not use Catering Leeds | Anne Cowling will shortly be communicating with the other catering providers and schools that self-cater about how the equipment allocation will be managed. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can we have details of kitchen size guidelines from DfE? Are these related to pupil numbers <u>or</u> meals provided? | The DfE space guidance in Building Bulletin 99 suggests the size of primary (infant & junior) as opposed to secondary school kitchens by forms of entry. Therefore, this is based on pupil numbers not actual meals provided/take-up. |

Mandy Snaith

| Question | Answer |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the catering service provide family style serving containers/dishes? | Yes we will. If we can discuss and implement this before September it would be useful. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the catering agency work with Food Dudes to create one package? We don't have time to coordinate both | We will be working with Schools Health and Wellbeing Team to establish this. We can keep you informed through our e-communications newsletter. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the catering service prepared to replace the multi trays with plates and bowls? | Yes we are. It's best if we work with you and perhaps your student council to choose which design you like best. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will VA schools get a one to one visit to review provision or will this be left to the Diocese of Leeds? | We will be giving all VA schools the same attention as others; this will include the audit and a 1:1 visit. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When will we get the results of our school audit? devaneja01leedslearning.net | Over the next few weeks we will be wrapping up the remainder of the audits and starting to arrange 1:1 visits, we are splitting the visits up between our management team so that we can through them as quickly as possible. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we get discounts on equipment if we buy together? (economies of scale) | Yes, we are already looking at this and have had the major suppliers in already to establish improved discounts which we can pass on to you. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice? Staff training? Special diets? Marketing to parents? | Please contact us for a scheduled visit. All bases covered on your concerns but perhaps a meeting to go over each area would be beneficial. |

Fergus Lowe Food Dudes

| Question | Answer |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual schools to adopt? What is the cost? | The Food Dudes programme is usually commissioned through Public Health who sit in the Local Authority. We are in discussions currently with Public Health about the possibility of running the programme in a number of schools in Leeds. How and when this will be commissioned and paid for is yet to be decided, you can register an interest with the Health & Wellbeing Service. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who refuse – do they go hungry or how do we ensure they get enough? | At lunchtime there are always lots of other foods available. No one should go hungry. |

Health and Wellbeing Service

| Question | Answer |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are LCC doing on communications to parents directly and the wider community? • Can we have template letter/marketing materials for parents of primary and nursery age children | <p>We are awaiting more information on a national communications campaign from the school food plan. A Leeds comms. group is looking at resources, in liaison with the Headteacher steering group.</p> <p>Some schools are already considering how they will target parents, i.e parent letters specific to their school or putting information in with admissions forms.</p> <p>The Health & Wellbeing Service will produce a letter template shortly for schools to access in the summer term.</p> <p>Schools will be informed on further resources that become available and how to access them.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be a blog or forum on the internet to share info to help the momentum for this? | The school food plan is developing a dedicated online platform to share what works well. In the meantime there are case studies available on their website. One of the best ways of sharing information with progression is on twitter @schfoodplan & @schoolwellebing_ |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools do not have access to LCC intranet so it is difficult to know who to contact about what and who is out there and able to provide help and support. | For national support check out www.schoolfoodplan.com and @schfoodplan on twitter. Local support can be found at www.schoolwellbeing.com . |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support is available for additional equipment – fridge/cold serving cupboard for sandwiches. • Reassurance please that no bias towards allocating funding to schools who use Catering Leeds | <p>Leeds City Council will be in touch to request kitchen and dining room audits similar to those that Catering Leeds have done in their school kitchens. Support will be available to complete this process. Then appropriate solutions will be discussed with the schools on a needs basis with indication from the audits.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will this become an Ofsted target? | <p>Ofsted new subsidiary guidance states: Inspectors should consider the food on offer at the school and atmosphere of the school canteen. They should consider how lunch time and the dining space contribute to good behaviour and the culture in the school, including by spending time in the lunch hall, and ask school leaders how they help to ensure a healthy lifestyle for their children and, specifically, whether their dietary needs have been considered.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What responsibilities do a Governing Body have in respect of this other than what they currently have. What will they have to report back on? | <p>The termly schools census will be used from October 2014 to collect information on the take up of a midday meal by individual pupils. This will inform future revenue funding for school meals. There are no additional reporting / publication requirements that we are yet aware of.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the free fruit still happen? Will we still charge for school milk or will this be free too? What about nursery children? | <p>Free fruit and milk are covered under a different policy so will not be affected by this initiative. It does not apply to nursery children.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we access the nutritional levels expected of our menus? | <p>The new food standards are available as a draft. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reviced-standards-for-food-in-schools--2 This means menus no longer have to be analysed by a computer programme</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training? • Special diets? | <p>Speak to your caterer about how kitchen staff will be trained for the changes they may face. The pilots advised training on new equipment and menus prior to September.</p> <p>Staff training: the Health & Wellbeing Service will be providing school staff training such as Lunch Time Supervisor training.</p> <p>Special diets: sending a letter out to parents to enquire whether their child has special diets and speaking to caterers to ask if they can meet this demand. Most caterers have a nutritionist that will assist with this.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we get discounts on equipment if we buy together? (economies of scale) | <p>We will be establishing a procurement arrangement that will provide economies of scale for Leeds schools. Further information will be available.</p> |