

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Thursday 13 March 2014
Time: 1.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 5 March 2014 and indicated that the report detailed below would be to follow. This is now available and is attached to this Agenda Supplement.

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

10 **Free School Meal Pooling Scheme** *(Pages 1 - 16)*

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 March 2013

SCHOOLS FORUM

13th March 2014

Free School Meals Pooling Scheme

Purpose of the paper

1. To update Schools Forum of the balance on the free schools meals pool at the end of the 2013-14 financial year.
2. To consider the impact of the Universal Infant Free School Meal Entitlement on the future operation of the pool.

Background

3. The Free School Meals Pooling Scheme (FSM) was set up in 2001 with the aim of offering schools some financial stability to the cost of providing free school meals to their pupils. Under the scheme a school can pay a premium into the pool and in return be reimbursed for the cost of providing statutory free meals to pupils. The scheme has provided a useful means of enabling schools to have some degree of protection against unexpected changes in the number of free meals it has to provide.
4. The premium payable in to the scheme is based on the number of pupils recorded in the October pupil census as being eligible for FSM. Since the implementation of the new funding formula in 2013-14 there is no identifiable amount delegated to schools in respect of FSM. The rate charged in the premium has remained unchanged per meal (£1.87 Primary, £2.21 Secondary & £2.12 Special) and this is also the amount paid out from the pool per meal taken. Any increase in the amount to be paid out per meal would need to be matched by an increase in the premium paid by schools participating in the pool.
5. In recent years any surplus balance within the pool has been redistributed to schools with a small working balance retained in the pool each year. Cash back to schools has been calculated pro rata to the amount paid in by each school.
6. In 2010/11 £82,689 cashback was redistributed for 2008/09 & 2009/10.
7. In 2011/12 £76,210 cashback was redistributed for 2010/11
8. In 2012/13 the estimated balance was £80k which has previously been believed by officers to be adequate to offset any growth in free meals in any year. The Forum therefore agreed that no cash back be allocated for 2012-13. The final balance on the pool for 2012-13 was higher than estimated.
9. The Children & Families Bill places a legal duty on state-funded schools in England, including academies and free schools, to offer a free school lunch to all

pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2. Subject to Royal Assent, this duty will come in to force from September 2014. The latest [guidance](#) issued to schools by the DfE on 7th March 2014 gives more detail on the operation of the universal infant free school meal (UIFSM) entitlement including funding arrangements. The guidance is also attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

10. Funding for the new entitlement will be based on a rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by pupils who will become newly eligible for a FSM as a result of the UIFSM policy. Schools will be expected to continue to fund meals for pupils eligible for FSMs under the existing criteria in the same way that they do currently. A new indicator will be introduced on the Schools Census which will enable schools to state how many newly eligible infants (i.e. infants not eligible for free school meals under the existing criteria) are taking a FSM. This new indicator will be introduced from October 2014.

Main Considerations

Estimated Balance 2013-14

11. The estimated balance at the end of 2013/14 is £139,496 made up as follows:

		Compared to 2012/13	
Balance b/f	£127,918	Balance b/f	£72,248
Income	£333,298	Income	£407,988
Expenditure	<u>£321,720</u>	Expenditure	<u>£352,318</u>
	£139,496 (surplus)		£127,918 (surplus)

Implications of the Universal Infant Free School Meal Policy

12. The future operation of the FSM pool was discussed by the School Funding Working Group on 26th February 2014. At that meeting it was assumed that all meals for infant pupils would be funded under the UIFSM policy and that the FSM pool would be difficult to administer and potentially not be fit for purpose under those circumstances. The working group therefore requested that a report be brought to Schools Forum including proposals to close the FSM pool from September 2014.
13. The latest guidance from the DfE, however, makes it clear that that government funding of £2.30 per meal will only be for those pupils who become newly eligible under the policy and that schools will still be responsible for funding meals for infant pupils eligible under the existing income related criteria. This would suggest that there is still a potential role for the pool at all Key Stages.
14. In the light of this new guidance it is proposed that the FSM pool continue in its current form for a further year whilst the impact of the UIFSM policy is evaluated.
15. If it is agreed to continue the operation of the pool, Schools Forum will need to decide:
 - a. The rate per meal to be included in the premium charged to schools, and the rate to be paid out from the pool per meal;
 - b. Whether a proportion of the balance at 31st March 2014 should be redistributed to schools, and if so at what level.
16. Options for redistribution have been modelled as follows (see Appendix 2):

Option 1 = 40%	Cashback £39,162	Leaving £100,333
Option 2 = 50%	Cashback £48,953	Leaving £90,543
Option 3 = 60%	Cashback £58,743	Leaving £80,752

17. Previously £80,000 has been considered to be a prudent level of balance to be retained.

Other options considered

18. An alternative option would still be to cease to operate the pool from September 2014. Under this option premiums would be calculated for schools wishing to participate in the pool for the period April to August 2014. The remaining balance on the pool would then be redistributed to schools as at 31st August.
19. Assuming no cashback calculation is carried out for 31st March 2014, the redistribution would need to take in to account contributions from all schools that have participated in the pool since the last cashback payment was made and would therefore need to take into account all schools that have contributed since April 2012.

Proposals

20. Schools Forum is asked to consider the future operation of the FSM pool in the context of the implementation of the universal FSM entitlement for infants from September 2014.
21. In the light of guidance now issued by the DfE it is proposed that the FSM pool continue to operate for a further year to enable evaluation of the impact of the UIFSM policy on costs for schools.
22. If it is agreed to continue with the pool Schools Forum is asked to agree the rate per meal to be used in the calculation of premiums for schools wishing to join the pool and the rate to be paid out from the pool.
23. Schools Forum is also asked to consider whether a proportion of the surplus balance on the pool should be redistributed to schools.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE
KNOWN

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Free School Meals Pool Rebate: Participating Schools for financial years 2012/13

DfE	Name of School	Total			1.	2.	3.
		Subscriptions	Total Claims	Balance	Rebate based on surplus contribution %	Rebate based on surplus contribution %	Rebate based on surplus contribution %
					40	50	60
2003	Calne Fynamore	£ 13,493.04	£ 6,836.72	£ 6,656.32	2,662.53	3,328.16	3,993.79
2004	Salisbury Greentrees	£ 8,521.92	£ 7,754.89	£ 767.03	306.81	383.52	460.22
2005	Devizes Nursteed	£ 12,427.80	£ 8,160.68	£ 4,267.12	1,706.85	2,133.56	2,560.27
2006	The Mead	£ 7,811.76	£ 7,461.30	£ 350.46	140.18	175.23	210.28
2009	Bratton	£ 4,260.96	£ 5,574.47		0.00	0.00	0.00
2028	Corsham Primary	£ 26,275.92	£ 18,748.62	£ 7,527.30	3,010.92	3,763.65	4,516.38
2029	Corsham Lypiatt	£ 3,550.80	£ 2,419.78	£ 1,131.02	452.41	565.51	678.61
2031	Neston	£ 2,485.56	£ 1,417.46	£ 1,068.10	427.24	534.05	640.86
2032	Corsham Regis	£ 13,848.12	£ 13,176.02	£ 672.10	268.84	336.05	403.26
2045	Gomeldon	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00	0.00	0.00
2053	Horningsham	£ -	£ 123.42		0.00	0.00	0.00
2086	Stanton St. Quintin	£ 1,420.32	£ 1,464.21		0.00	0.00	0.00
2134	New Close	£ 710.00	£ 776.05		0.00	0.00	0.00
2140	Wootton Bassett Infants	£ 2,840.64	£ 2,042.04	£ 798.60	319.44	399.30	479.16
2162	Wootton Bassett Noremarsch Junior	£ 3,195.72	£ 1,954.15	£ 1,241.57	496.63	620.79	744.94
2178	Warminster Princecroft	£ 8,877.00	£ 7,149.01	£ 1,727.99	691.20	863.99	1,036.79
2184	Wootton Bassett Longleaze	£ 7,456.68	£ 8,648.75		0.00	0.00	0.00
2190	Salisbury Woodlands	£ 23,080.20	£ 20,667.24	£ 2,412.96	965.18	1,206.48	1,447.78
2196	Trowbridge Holbrook	£ 9,942.24	£ 6,588.01	£ 3,354.23	1,341.69	1,677.12	2,012.54
2198	Ludwell	£ 3,905.88	£ 2,212.21	£ 1,693.67	677.47	846.84	1,016.20
2202	Cricklade St. Sampson's Infant	£ 6,391.44	£ 3,386.57	£ 3,004.87	1,201.95	1,502.44	1,802.92
2218	Chippenham Kings Lodge	£ 7,811.76	£ 7,094.78	£ 716.98	286.79	358.49	430.19
2222	Trowbridge Walwayne Court	£ 8,877.00	£ 6,872.25	£ 2,004.75	801.90	1,002.38	1,202.85
2225	Westbury Bitham Brook	£ 14,203.20	£ 9,409.84	£ 4,793.36	1,917.34	2,396.68	2,876.02
2228	Queens Crescent	£ 9,587.16	£ 8,596.39	£ 990.77	396.31	495.39	594.46
3013	Box C.E.	£ 3,905.88	£ 1,720.40	£ 2,185.48	874.19	1,092.74	1,311.29
3018	Broad Hinton C.E.	£ 1,065.24	£ 931.26	£ 133.98	53.59	66.99	80.39
3019	Broad Town C.E.	£ 1,065.24	£ 431.97	£ 633.27	253.31	316.64	379.96
3021	Broughton Gifford C.E.	£ 3,195.72	£ 2,051.39	£ 1,144.33	457.73	572.17	686.60
3035	Cherhill C.E.	£ 4,616.04	£ 2,571.25	£ 2,044.79	817.92	1,022.40	1,226.87
3038	Christian Malford C.E.	£ 355.08	£ 908.82		0.00	0.00	0.00
3040	Colerne C.E.	£ 2,130.48	£ 1,800.81	£ 329.67	131.87	164.84	197.80
3047	Crockerton C.E.	£ 1,065.24	£ 360.91	£ 704.33	281.73	352.17	422.60
3086	Heddington C.E.	£ 1,065.24	£ 654.50	£ 410.74	164.30	205.37	246.44
3088	Hilperton C.E.	£ 5,681.28	£ 4,119.61	£ 1,561.67	624.67	780.84	937.00
3091	Hullavington C.E.	£ 2,485.56	£ 2,311.32	£ 174.24	69.70	87.12	104.54
3104	Lea & Garsdon C.E.	£ 2,485.56	£ 1,028.50	£ 1,457.06	582.82	728.53	874.24
3135	North Bradley C.E.	£ 2,840.64	£ 1,879.35	£ 961.29	384.52	480.65	576.77
3140	Oaksey C.E.	£ 710.16	£ 684.42	£ 25.74	10.30	12.87	15.44
3150	Purton St. Mary's C.E.	£ 7,811.76	£ 6,167.26	£ 1,644.50	657.80	822.25	986.70
3160	Semington St George's C.E.	£ 2,130.48	£ 1,110.78	£ 1,019.70	407.88	509.85	611.82
3161	Shalbourne C.E.	£ 1,420.32	£ 680.68	£ 739.64	295.86	369.82	443.78
3162	Shaw C.E.	£ 1,420.32	£ 2,290.75		0.00	0.00	0.00
3172	Stratford sub Castle C.E.	£ 9,942.24	£ 6,449.63	£ 3,492.61	1,397.04	1,746.31	2,095.57
3174	Sutton Veny C.E.	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00	0.00	0.00
3191	Warminster Minster C.E.	£ 8,877.00	£ 6,017.66	£ 2,859.34	1,143.74	1,429.67	1,715.60
3199	Winsley C.E.	£ 2,485.56	£ 1,475.43	£ 1,010.13	404.05	505.07	606.08
3201	Winterbourne Earls C.E.	£ 3,195.72	£ 1,585.76	£ 1,609.96	643.98	804.98	965.98
3203	Wootton Bassett St.Bartholomew's C.E.	£ 11,717.64	£ 9,058.28	£ 2,659.36	1,063.74	1,329.68	1,595.62
3207	Dilton Marsh C.E.	£ 9,232.08	£ 6,468.33	£ 2,763.75	1,105.50	1,381.88	1,658.25
3216	Marlborough St.Peter's CEJunior	£ 9,587.16	£ 6,645.98	£ 2,941.18	1,176.47	1,470.59	1,764.71
3220	Minety C.E.	£ 355.08	£ 559.13		0.00	0.00	0.00
3222	Market Lavington St. Barnabas' C.E.	£ 5,681.28	£ 4,882.57	£ 798.71	319.48	399.36	479.23
3242	Brinkworth	£ 2,485.56	£ 1,438.03	£ 1,047.53	419.01	523.77	628.52
3243	Great Bedwyn C.E.	£ 1,065.24	£ 802.23	£ 263.01	105.20	131.51	157.81
3330	Derry Hill C.E.	£ 4,260.96	£ 3,592.27	£ 668.69	267.48	334.35	401.21
3366	Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls C.E.	£ 2,485.56	£ 2,475.88	£ 9.68	3.87	4.84	5.81
3388	Seend C.E.	£ 1,775.40	£ 2,464.66		0.00	0.00	0.00
3400	West Ashton C.E.	£ -	£ -	£ -	0.00	0.00	0.00
3402	Whiteparish	£ 710.16	£ 1,948.54		0.00	0.00	0.00
3407	Woodford Valley C.E.	£ 2,840.64	£ 1,963.50	£ 877.14	350.86	438.57	526.28
3449	Broad Chalke C.E.	£ 1,420.32	£ 1,744.71		0.00	0.00	0.00
3456	Great Cheverell The Holy Trinity C.E.	£ 4,616.04	£ 3,489.42	£ 1,126.62	450.65	563.31	675.97
3462	Amesbury Archer	£ 6,391.44	£ 5,013.47	£ 1,377.97	551.19	688.99	826.78
3464	Old Sarum Primary	£ 4,261.00	£ 3,309.90	£ 951.10	380.44	475.55	570.66
3467	Churchfields The Village School	£ 3,195.72	£ 3,152.82	£ 42.90	17.16	21.45	25.74
3470	Wilton/Barford	£ 9,587.16	£ 6,846.37	£ 2,740.79	1,096.32	1,370.40	1,644.47
3471	Lyneham Primary	£ 3,550.80	£ 4,364.58		0.00	0.00	0.00
3472	Bellefield	£ 24,145.44	£ 17,621.01	£ 6,524.43	2,609.77	3,262.22	3,914.66
5200	Aloeric	£ 12,782.88	£ 12,919.83		0.00	0.00	0.00
5222	Rowde	£ 6,036.36	£ 5,509.02	£ 527.34	210.94	263.67	316.40
7008	Salisbury Exeter House	£ 8,878.54	£ 5,613.94	£ 3,264.60	1,305.84	1,632.30	1,958.76
721		407,988.34	317,651.79	97,906.47	39,162.59	48,953.24	58,743.88

40%	
Estimated Reserves as at 31/3/14	-139,496.35
Rebate 1	39,162.59
Closed schools portion to offset closed schools with deficits	0.00
Balance retained in pool	-100,333.76
50%	
Estimated Reserves as at 31/3/14	-139,496.35
Rebate 2	48,953.24
Closed schools portion to offset closed schools with deficits	0.00
Balance retained in pool	-90,543.12
60%	
Estimated Reserves as at 31/3/14	-139,496.35
Rebate 3	58,743.88
Closed schools portion to offset closed schools with deficits	0.00
Balance retained in pool	-80,752.47

For rebates above 100% - NOT NEEDED THIS TIME	
Estimated Reserves as at 31/3/14	
Rebate 4	
Closed schools portion to offset closed schools with deficits	
Balance retained in pool	
Ideal balance to retain	

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Department
for Education

Universal infant free school meals

**Departmental advice for local authorities,
maintained schools, academies and free
schools**

March 2014

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Summary

About this departmental advice

This is departmental advice from the Department for Education. This advice is non-statutory, and has been produced to help recipients understand their obligation to provide free school meals to all infants in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Expiry or review date

This advice will be kept under review as we approach the implementation of universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) in September 2014.

What legislation does this advice relate to?

The Children and Families Bill places a legal duty on state-funded schools in England, including academies and free schools, to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2. Subject to Royal Assent, which is expected in March 2014, the duty will come into force from September 2014.

Who is this advice for?

This advice is for:

- School leaders and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision with children in reception, year 1 and year 2
- Local authorities

Key points

- In the 2014 to 2015 academic year schools will be paid funding at a flat rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by newly eligible pupils. Initial provisional allocations will be based on an estimate of national take-up and then adjusted once the department has details of the actual number of meals taken in individual schools
- Additional one-off funding will be provided in the 2014 to 2015 financial year to small schools (those with up to 150 pupils in total) to help with transitional costs
- The government is providing £150 million of capital funding in the 2014 to 2015 financial year to support the rollout of UIFSM
- Targeted advice and support will be provided to schools and local authorities through the UIFSM implementation support service

Eligibility

Reception, year 1 and year 2

From September 2014 all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England will be eligible for free school meals (FSMs). This will include academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision as well as maintained schools.

Eligibility criteria for other groups

Existing entitlements to free school meals for disadvantaged pupils in nursery classes and at key stages 2-4 will continue as now, based on the existing free school meals eligibility criteria.

In England, children at key stages 2-4 in state-funded schools are entitled to receive FSM if their parents or carers are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- During the initial roll out of the benefit, Universal Credit

The Children and Families Bill does not change the current position for children who are registered pupils in the nursery class of a maintained school, or in a maintained nursery school. They will continue to receive a FSM if they meet the existing eligibility criteria and they are in receipt of full-time education or education both before and after the lunch period.

Young children who take up their funded early education entitlement in a private or voluntary early years provider – for example a full day care nursery, or play group – or an independent school are not entitled to a FSM even if they meet the qualifying criteria. This is because the existing FSM framework is relevant only to registered pupils in the state-funded school sector.

Meal requirements and food standards

Food Standards

Schools¹ are legally required to provide meals that comply with the School Food Standards. These standards are intended to ensure that children get the nutrition they need across the whole school day. They govern all food and drink on offer within the school and apply across the school day, including breakfast, mid-morning break, lunchtime and food served after school. We are currently [consulting](#) on a set of simplified standards, which we are proposing will come into force from January 2015.

Hot meals

The legal requirement on schools will be to provide a lunchtime meal that meets the School Food Standards, where they apply¹. We expect that pupils will routinely be offered a hot meal option.

Catering for pupils with special dietary requirements

Headteachers and school governors are best placed to make decisions in the case of pupils who have special dietary requirements, taking into account local circumstances. We expect schools to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with these requirements.

This is already the case in relation to FSMs for disadvantaged pupils and schools will be expected to take the same approach as eligibility is extended.

For advice on how to cater for pupils with special dietary requirements see the [School Food Plan's UIFSM Toolkit](#).

Packed lunches

Schools will be expected to offer FSMs to all infant pupils, but will not be expected to make take-up of meals by infant pupils mandatory. Schools have the freedom to set their own policies in relation to packed lunches, and that will not change.

¹ The standards apply to all LA maintained schools. Academies set up between 2008 and 2010 are required to comply with the existing regulations. Academies and free schools set up after 2010 are exempt. We will be introducing a requirement for new academies to comply with the school food standards regulations through their funding agreements. As part of their work implementing the *School Food Plan*, Henry Dimbleby and John Vincent are asking schools that do not have to comply with the regulations to make a voluntary commitment to do so.

Funding

Capital funding

Details of the specific capital funding available to support this policy, including allocations to individual local authorities, were published in December 2013 and are available from GOV.UK.

Local authorities will receive their capital funding in April 2014, and we would encourage schools to contact the appropriate person in their authority for information about how the money will be prioritised. The results of the most recent Academies Capital Maintenance Fund (ACMF) bidding round will also be announced shortly.

In addition, we encourage local authorities to consider how they might use their school maintenance and improvement budgets to support the delivery of UIFSM, and academies to consider how they might best approach future bids to the [ACMF](#).

Revenue funding

Revenue funding will be based on a rate of £2.30 for each meal taken by pupils who will become newly eligible for a FSM as a result of the UIFSM policy. Schools will be expected to continue to fund meals for pupils eligible for FSMs under the existing criteria in the same way that they do currently. We are introducing a new indicator on the Schools Census which will enable schools to state how many newly eligible infants (i.e. infants not eligible for free school meals under the existing criteria) are taking a FSM. This new indicator will be introduced from October 2014.

Schools will be notified of their provisional full year revenue funding allocation for the 2014 to 2015 academic year in June 2014. Local authorities will receive the first 2014 to 2015 payment for maintained schools at the end of June 2014, with academies and free schools shortly after in their next scheduled payment in early July, and newly opening academies and free schools in early September. This payment will provide funding for the first two terms of the academic year (which represents the remainder of the 2014 to 2015 financial year).

This allocation will be based on pupil data from the January 2014 Schools Census as well as planning assumptions that (i) 87% of newly eligible pupils will take meals, and (ii) those pupils will take 190 school meals in the course of a full academic year. This provisional allocation will be revised later in the academic year based on actual take-up data derived from an average of the October 2014 and January 2015 Schools Censuses and the payment for the third term of the 2014 to 2015 academic year will be adjusted accordingly.

Schools with an actual take-up rate above the assumed take-up rate of 87% will have the provisional third term payment, to be made in April 2015, adjusted upwards and those

below this rate will have it adjusted downwards. Those schools with low levels of take-up may receive no extra payment in the third term. We would expect the number of schools in this position to be very small.

The allocation methodology for the 2015 to 2016 academic year will be confirmed in due course. Our intention is that it will be based on take-up data from the Schools Census. Funding for this policy beyond the 2015 to 2016 financial year will be considered as part of the next Spending Review, along with all other government expenditure.

The department will provide detailed terms and conditions and further advice on issues such as closing schools and the year-end accounting treatment for an academic year grant.

Small schools transitional funding

We are also providing additional transitional funding for one year only, totalling £22.5 million, in the 2014 to 2015 financial year to small schools (schools with a total roll of up to 150 pupils according to the January 2014 Schools Census). Funding will be provided as a lump sum in June 2014. This can be spent as schools choose in support of their implementation of the policy, including for the purpose of improving kitchen or dining equipment, and will not be adjusted later to take account of take-up.

All small schools with infant pupils who were not eligible for FSM in the 2014 census will receive at least £3,000 of additional funding. Allocations will be calculated with reference to the units of funding detailed in the table below. Where that is below the minimum level the allocation will be uplifted to £3,000.

Total no. of pupils on school roll in latest census	Unit funding per non-FSM eligible infant
minimum additional funding per school with non-FSM infants in latest census data	£3,000
1-30	£210
31-60	£190
61-90	£160
91-120	£135
121-150	£100

Small school funding: examples

Example 1: A school with a total school roll of 98 pupils in the January 2014 Schools Census, with 34 infants newly eligible for free school meals, will receive in June 2014 a small school transitional funding lump sum of £4,590 (34 x £135) in addition to their revenue funding.

Example 2: A school with a total school roll of 32 pupils in the January 2014 School Census, with 11 pupils newly eligible for free school meals, will receive in June 2014 a small school transitional funding lump sum of £3,000 ((11 x £190 equals £2,090, so this is uplifted to the minimum funding figure of £3,000) in addition to their revenue funding.

Pupil premium

The basis on which pupil premium funding is calculated will not be affected by the introduction of UIFSM.

In particular, the funding for the financial year 2014 to 2015 will be informed by data collected in the January 2014 School Census. This took place prior to the introduction of UIFSM.

For the financial year 2015 to 2016, the same criteria currently used to assess FSM eligibility (i.e. receipt of qualifying benefits) will continue to be used to assess whether a pupil qualifies for the pupil premium (£1300 per child at present). Data on FSM-eligible pupils will continue to be collected by the department annually, through the School Census (for mainstream settings) and the Alternative Provision census (for non-mainstream settings).

For more advice on how schools can safeguard pupil premium funding from September 2014, see the [UIFSM Toolkit](#).

Implementation support

The Children's Food Trust (CFT) and the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA) have been commissioned by the department to provide a support service for schools, local authorities and caterers preparing to provide UIFSM.

This implementation support service will consist of a telephone and online advice service for all organisations requiring support, and a direct-support service for some schools.

Schools that are identified as needing direct support will have a number of options available to them, including collaborating with other schools, further telephone advice and face-to-face visits by specialist professional advisors.

The direct-support service will be available to schools that:

- currently have low levels of school meal take-up
- provide only packed lunches
- have in-house catering and are therefore unlikely to receive support from a 'parent' organisation such as a local authority or catering organisation
- are small and therefore struggle to make the school meal service break even;
- are very large, and known to have capacity issues; and / or
- prepare and transport school meals to other schools (known as 'production kitchens'). Some of these will be secondary schools

To access this support schools should first check the online resources on the [Children's Food Trust website](#). If they need further advice, they should then contact the advice service on either info@childrensfoodtrust.org.uk or by calling 0800 680 0080.

A specialist call handler will discuss the requirements of each school and, if necessary, refer them on to the most appropriate source of direct support.

Schools that meet the criteria for direct support will receive personalised support, tailored to their requirements, from the CFT; Elygra Marketing (acting for LACA) or one of the consortium's delivery partners; Food For Life Partnership; Craft of Guild Chefs; Foodservice Consultants Society International; and the Small Schools Taskforce.

Schools will not have to pay to access the advice service, the telephone support or the opportunities to collaborate with other schools. There will be a contributory charge for direct face-to-face support.

Advice and guidance is also available via the [online UIFSM toolkit](#), and at the [School Food Plan](#) website.



Department
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