



Video 3

At EA we know that it is a challenging time and we aim to bring you the most up to date information we can. This is the information we have as of 30 March 2020

Free School Meals COVID-19

As a result of school closures due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Minister for Education and Minister for Communities has agreed to make payment to families who have been assessed as eligible for free school meals.

In order for those payments to be made effectively it is essential that the Education Authority (EA) has your most up to date bank details.

If you have already submitted your bank details and they have not changed then you do NOT need to complete the below form.

Once you have completed the form, no further action is required. Please note that you will not be contacted by EA again requesting this information.

How much will I receive and how often?

Parents/guardians will receive £2.70 per day per child and payments will be made every two weeks. For each child you will receive a fortnightly payment of £27.00 until 30th June or until your child's/children's school reopen whichever is soonest.

When will I receive my first payment?

The actual date of payment cannot be confirmed. It is anticipated payments to all recipients for whom we have the correct bank details will be made over a ten day period starting 1 April 2020.

Please note incorrect bank or building society sort code or account number details may prevent/delay payment.

I have recently lost my job or my circumstances have changed. Can I receive help with free school meals?

Yes, you will need to immediately inform HMRC / Universal Credit / the Social Security Agency and inform them of the change in your circumstances. When you begin to receive a qualifying benefit, you can then submit a free school meals application form with the relevant proof of benefit (see details on the application

form). Application forms are available from the Education Authority's website <https://www.eani.org.uk/node/1075> or you can call our office on 028 3751 2523.

If you have any queries in relation to free school meals payments please email: MealsandUniforms-Omagh@eani.org.uk

If you need assistance with free school meals and need an interpreter please get in touch with the EA Equality Unit equality.unit@eani.org.uk

We understand this is a very stressful time and we want to ensure you that we aim to assist you the best we can, information changes rapidly but we hope to be able to update you as often as we are able to. If you need further information or support please email equality.unit@eani.org.uk