



Children's Services

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Dorset Schools

Date: 6 October 2022

Ref: Free School Meals

Officer: Abby Matthews

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✉ freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you have seen our campaign to increase the uptake of Free School Meals across Dorset. We want to ensure families are aware of any benefits that may be available to support them, especially as the cost of living continues to rise.

Not only will this provide crucial support to families at this time but, as I'm sure you're aware, for every successful application, valuable Pupil Premium funding will be generated. This additional income will help improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in your schools.

Please support us with this by communicating Free School Meals information to parents/carers. This includes, attached:

- A campaign poster which we kindly request you display at your school, where it will be visible for parents/carers.
- Sample wording for your communication channels, signposting families to our webpage ([Apply for free school meals - Dorset Council](#)) where they can complete our quick and easy confidential checker.

We also request that you check your school website contains up to date information, including the correct link to the Dorset Council Free School Meals webpage (linked above).

For more information and guidance on Free School Meals, please visit our Free School Meals page on Nexus which contains our useful toolkit for schools: [Communication | Article view | SLA Online \(sla-online.co.uk\)](#).

If you need any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the free school meals team by emailing freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or telephone Abby Matthews on 01305 221869.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vik Verma".

Vik Verma
Corporate Director - Education & Learning
Dorset Council