



# Universal Infant Free School Meals

Universal Infant Free School Meals are to be introduced in England from September 2014. Similar arrangements will apply in Scotland from January 2015. Wales has decided to concentrate on its existing School Breakfast initiative. Northern Ireland has extended the criteria for free school meals but is still considering their position on the universal option.

This paper attempts to provide a synopsis of the many strands of the initiative and the government funded support available. Links to the relevant websites and documents are also included.

## Key issues

- £2.30 flat rate per meal for newly eligible pupils based on 87% uptake
- Commences in Sept 2014 in England, but funding will be reduced if uptake not met
- Additional capital funding available and support for small schools
- Food based Standards to replace nutrient based from January 2015

## Introduction

Universal Infant Free School Meals are to be introduced in England from September 2014. Similar arrangements will apply in Scotland from January 2015. Wales has decided to concentrate on its existing School Breakfast initiative. Northern Ireland has extended the criteria for free school meals but is still considering their position on the universal option.

The initial foundations can be traced back to the School Food Plan and various pilot schemes on free school meals applied in Durham, Newham and Wolverhampton. Whilst the decision to extend Free School Meals provision remains somewhat controversial, the implementation by the Department of Education has been relatively comprehensive to date, given the short timeframe.

## Funding Arrangements

- Key Stage 1 – Reception, yr1 & yr2
- £2.30 flat rate per meal (**newly eligible pupils only**)
- Additional funding to small schools
- Commences September 2014
- Existing Free School Meal entitlement as now
- Expectation of hot meal
- Schools notified and Local Authority paid June 2014

- Academies and Free Schools paid July 2014

### Payments

- Based on January 2014 census
- Assumes **87%** take meals over 190 days
  - However average likely to be closer to 70% (Scottish pilots)
- LA will receive upfront for the first 2 terms
- Further *actual take-up* census in October 2014 and January 2015 – payment for 3<sup>rd</sup> term adjusted accordingly
- **APSE suggest special effort is made to maximise uptake on census days which are predicted to occur on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

### Small Schools

- Up to 150 pupils, single year funding
- £3000 plus sum per newly qualified pupil
- How spent is school's choice

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

### Capital Funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-allocations-for-basic-need-and-infant-free-school-meals>

- £150 million capital funding

Universal infant free school meals capital	
Academies	£20,856,157
LA UIFSM capital	£102,742,203
VA UIFSM capital	£26,401,641
<b>Total UIFSM</b>	<b>£150,000,000</b>

Capital funding is detailed by local upper tier authority

LA Num	LA Name	Universal infant free school meals capital 2014-15		
		LA	VA	Total UIFSM 2014-15
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102,742,203</b>	<b>26,401,641</b>	<b>129,143,843</b>
888	Lancashire	1,779,731	1,520,882	3,300,614
889	Blackburn with Darwen	261,234	242,347	503,581
890	Blackpool	121,297	108,489	229,786
891	Nottinghamshire	1,715,315	175,202	1,890,517
892	Nottingham	481,100	11,689	492,788
893	Shropshire	587,365	75,458	662,822
894	Telford and Wrekin	448,631	46,495	495,126
895	Cheshire East	639,635	177,236	816,872
896	Cheshire West and Chester	663,526	187,886	851,412

## Support

### Universal infant free school meals:

- An implementation support service, including a national helpline, run by the **Children's Food Trust** and Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA) consortium, will help schools across the country
- A universal infant free school meals support toolkit has been published <http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/toolkit/>

### Wider School Food Plan support contracts:

- **Magic Breakfast** has been contracted by the DfE to set up breakfast clubs in schools where children are coming to school hungry
- **Children's Food Trust**, Food for Life Partnership (The Soil Association) and The Design and Technology Association have been contracted by DfE to increase school meal take-up in 2000 junior and secondary schools that currently have low take-up

### Support: (Charged)

Available to schools that:

- currently have low levels of school meal take-up
- provide only packed lunches
- have in-house(DIY) 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.

## Roadshows

In support of the implementation, a set of roadshows are available to attend  
<http://www.uifsm-roadshows.co.uk/>



North West	Chester Racecourse	15th May
North East	Newcastle Racecourse	23rd April
Yorks & Humber	Leeds United Football Club	6th June
West Midlands	Walsall Football Club	14th May
East Midlands	Notts County Football Club	5th June
East of England	Ipswich Town Football Club	20th May
South West	Bristol Ashton Gate Stadium	6th May
London	Twickenham Stoop Stadium	23rd May
South East	Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club	7th May

## Ofsted

New Ofsted guidance for inspectors has been issued in relation to school lunchtimes:  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/subsidiary-guidance-supporting-inspection-of-maintained-schools-and-academies>

63. The lead inspector should ensure that the team spends time outside, at break times and lunchtimes, observing behaviour and seeking the views of pupils and staff, for example lunchtime supervisors. Inspectors should observe pupils' behaviour when they arrive at school and leave at the end of the day, and also use this time to seek their views. Where parents bring their children to school, or collect them, inspectors should use this time to seek parents' views about behaviour.

64 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.

## School Food Standards

The consultation phase is now complete and the new standards will be confirmed in the Summer of 2014 and come into effect in January 2015  
<http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/draft-School-Food-Standards-Feb-20141.pdf>



# The draft School Food Standards

*Eating in school should be a pleasurable experience, a time spent sharing good food with peers and teachers.*

*These standards are intended to ensure that children get the nutrition they need across the whole school day. It is just as important to cook food that looks good and tastes good; to talk to children about what is on offer and recommend dishes; to reduce queuing; and to serve the food in a pleasant environment where they can eat with their friends.*

*As a general principle, it is important to provide a wide range of foods across the week. Variety is key – whether it is different fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses or types of meat and fish. Wherever possible, foods should be prepared in the school's own kitchen from fresh, locally sourced ingredients.*

\* This Standard applies across the whole school day, including breakfasts, morning breaks, tuck shops, and after school clubs



## Fruit and vegetables

One or more portions of vegetables as an accompaniment every day.

One or more portions of fruit every day. A dessert containing at least 50% fruit two or more times each week.

At least three different fruits and three different vegetables each week.



## Foods high in fat, sugar and salt

No more than two portions of food that has been deep-fried, batter-coated, or breadcrumb-coated each week.\*

No more than two portions of food which include pastry each week.\*

No snacks, except nuts, seeds, vegetables and fruit with no added salt, sugar or fat.\*

Savoury crackers or breadsticks can be served at lunch with fruit or vegetables or dairy food.

No confectionery, chocolate or chocolate-coated products.\*

Desserts, cakes and biscuits are allowed only at lunchtime. They must not contain any confectionery as ingredients.

Salt must not be available to add to food after it has been cooked.\*

Any condiments limited to sachets or portions of no more than 10g or one teaspoonful.\*



## Milk and dairy

A portion of food from this group every day.

Low fat milk available for drinking every day.



## Meat, fish, eggs, beans and other non dairy sources of protein

A portion of food from this group every day.

A portion of meat or poultry on three or more days each week.

Only fish once or more every three weeks.

A portion of non-dairy sources of protein available three or more days each week for vegetarians.

A meat or poultry product (manufactured or homemade and meeting the legal requirements no more than once each week in primary schools and twice each week in secondary schools.\*

## Food provided outside lunch

\* Fruit and/or vegetables available in all school food outlets.

\* No savoury crackers and breadsticks.

\* No cakes, biscuits, pastries or desserts (except yoghurt).



## Starchy food

One or more wholegrain varieties of starchy food each week.

One or more portions of food from this group every day.

Three or more different starchy foods each week.

Starchy food cooked in fat or oil no more than two days each week.\*

Bread (with no added fat or oil) must be available every day.



## Healthier drinks\*

Free, fresh drinking water at all times.

The only drinks permitted are:

- Plain water (still or carbonated); low fat milk or lactose reduced milk;
- Fruit or vegetable juice; (max 150 ml);
- Plain soya, rice or oat drinks enriched with calcium; plain fermented milk (e.g. yoghurt) drinks;
- Unsweetened combinations of fruit or vegetable juice with plain water (still or carbonated);
- Combinations of fruit juice and low fat milk or plain low fat yoghurt, plain soya, rice or oat drinks enriched with calcium; cocoa and low fat milk; flavoured low fat milk;
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate.

Combination drinks are limited to a portion size of 330ml. They may contain added vitamins or minerals, but no more than 5% added sugars or honey or 150ml of fruit content. Fruit juice combination drinks must be at least 45% fruit juice.



**APSE Comment**

APSE has supported the School Food Plan from the start and welcomes the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals. The concentration on school food and the re-introduction of cooking within the curriculum is part of a wider appreciation of the importance of diet within a healthy lifestyle.

Schools only operate for 190 days of the year and if health issues including obesity are to be tackled then equal emphasis needs to be placed on physical activity and nutrition support expanded to cover holiday periods too. APSE suggests that local authorities recognise the wider and long term health benefits and appropriately direct Health and Wellbeing fund monies into supporting additional interventions around nutrition and physical activity.

It is yet to be seen what the financial effects on Infant Free School Meals will have on the long term viability of school meals services. Whilst the plight of small schools has been recognised within the funding streams, longer term it is likely that a flat price based on £2.30 will significantly favour large schools whilst requiring a continued subsidy in smaller ones. With school budgets now almost entirely devolved this cost will almost inevitably fall back on the schools themselves unless their local authority can be persuaded otherwise as is the continuing case with council's like Bolton for school meals and Blackpool for breakfasts.

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