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Education and Social Care

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To the parent/carer of a child
in primary 1, 2 or 3 at a Moray
Council primary school

2 December 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Free school meals for children in primary 1 to primary 3

The Scottish Government has committed to giving all children in primary 1 to primary 3 the option of a free school meal from January 2015.

If you have a child in primary 1, 2 or 3 they can have a free school meal at their Moray primary school from 5 January 2015. This scheme does not apply to a child in primary 4, 5, 6 or 7.

What is a school meal?

A school meal in Moray offers a selection of up to 3 main course items and a choice of puddings, fresh fruit and yoghurt.

What are the benefits of having a school meal?

- Children can sit down together and enjoy their meal, whilst at the same time developing those social skills of eating together that are important later in life.
- A well fed and happy child is more likely to be receptive to participating in the afternoon's activities.
- The school meal aims to provide essential nutritional requirements that will assist your child in leading a 'bright and healthy' lifestyle.
- Have the benefits of someone else preparing and cooking lunch for your child.

What do I need to do for my child to have a free school meal?

You will not have to complete any forms. Your child should be familiar with being asked every day by their teacher whether they are taking a school lunch, packed lunch, or going home for lunch. From 5 January 2015 your child simply needs to say that they are taking school lunch when they are asked.

What will happen if I do not want my child to have a free school meal?

Your child does not have to have a free school meal. You may also choose for your child to have a free school meal on some days but not others. You will not receive any cash alternative if your child does not take a free school meal.

What happens to school meal tickets I have purchased?

If you have any school meal tickets that you have already purchased, you should use these up before 19 December 2014. You will not receive a refund for these tickets.

What happens when my child moves from primary 3 to primary 4?

When your child enters primary 4, they will no longer be entitled to a free school meal under this scheme, but you can claim free school meals and a clothing grant for your child if you are receiving the following benefits:

- Income Support,
- Income-based Job Seekers' allowance,
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, is below £16,010, or
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income below the threshold for receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit, currently set by the Government at £6,420
- Support under Part VI - Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

Application forms are available at every school or from the Council's Payments Section (Telephone 01343 563144). Applications can also be submitted online at www.moray.gov.uk

Clothing grants

You can claim for a clothing grant for your child if you are receiving the following benefits:

- Income Support,
- Income-based Job Seekers' allowance,
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, is below £16,010, or
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income below the threshold for receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit, currently set by the Government at £6,420
- Support under Part VI - Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

You do not need to complete an application form to claim for free school meals for a child in primary 1 to primary 3, but you will need to complete a form if you want to claim for a clothing grant.

Application forms are available at every school or from the Council's Payments Section (Telephone 01343 563144). Applications can also be submitted online at www.moray.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Fiona Michie