

Date: 26th June 2026

Dear Headteacher / Bursar,

Free School Meals Summer Food Transition Scheme

We are writing further to our communication in May 2026 about the Crisis and Resilience Fund and the end of the previous Free School Meals holiday voucher scheme.

Lancashire County Council has previously funded food vouchers for children entitled to Free School Meals during the school holidays. This voucher funding has now come to an end.

To help alleviate hardship caused by the sudden end of the voucher support, Rossendale Borough Council, in partnership with local community food organisations, has arranged a one-off summer holiday food support scheme for children who are entitled to Free School Meals.

Eligible families can sign up to receive one food bag per eligible child, per week, during the summer holidays. Each food bag is intended to provide ingredients that can be used to make lunches for one child throughout the week.

This is a one-off scheme for the 2026 summer holidays only. It is not a replacement voucher scheme and it does not mean food support will be available in future school holidays.

Further information and the sign-up form are available on our website:

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/benefits-1/crisis-and-resilience-fund/4>

We would be grateful if schools could share this information with families whose children are entitled to Free School Meals and who may need support during the summer holidays.



Crisis Payments

Crisis Payments through the Crisis and Resilience Fund are separate from this scheme. They are only available where a household is facing an **immediate crisis** and are considered based on individual circumstances, evidence of need and the funding available.

If a household is facing an urgent financial crisis, they may still be able to apply separately to the Crisis and Resilience Fund:

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/benefits-1/crisis-and-resilience-fund/2>

If your school is aware of a family who may need support through the wider Crisis and Resilience Fund, you can use the referral form below:

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/xfp/form/10610>

Alternatively, you can email the applicant's contact details to crisisandresilience@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

Thank you for your support in helping us reach families who may need assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Communities Team
Rossendale Borough Council

