



Free School Meals / School Uniform / Physical Education Uniform Allowance 2022-23



- The Education Authority (EA) will be issuing communications on the EA website (www.eani.org.uk) and social media channels to inform parents / guardians of the process for the coming year. We encourage all potential applicants to apply for the support available **before 31 July 2022** to ensure all is in place for the new school year in September 2022.
- Current Eligible Families and New Applicants parents / guardians who are currently in receipt of support for the 2021/22 school year will receive a letter highlighting the need to apply for the 2022/23 school year and the process to do so. All parents / guardians (including new applicants) will be able to **apply online** from **week commencing 6 June 2022** via the EA website.
- It is important for all applicants to read and understand what **supporting documentation** is required for their application. Information on this can be found on the EA website.
- **Special Diet:** parents / guardians whose child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (Stage 5) and requires a special diet should contact the Meals and Uniform Section for a paper application form if they wish to apply under the special diet criterion.
- **Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance Helpdesk:** the Free Schools Meals and Uniform Allowance **Helpdesk** is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance service. It is available to assist parents and guardians who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email: mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk . The telephone number which should be used for all enquiries is 028 9041 8044.
- Further information including **eligibility criteria** for the 2022-23 school year and a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** to assist with any parental queries can be accessed by visiting our website.

