**Important Information regarding Free-School Meals/School Uniform/PE Clothing Allowances 2021-22**

**Current Eligible Families and New Applicants**

Parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of support for the 2020/21 school year will **not** be sent a pre-populated form for the 2021/22 school year. All parents/ guardians (including new applicants) **are required to apply on-line from Monday, 7 June 2021 via the EA website** [**https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals**](https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals)**.**

It is recommended that parents/ guardians apply during the month of June, or as early as possible, to enable applications to be processed for support to be in place for their children for the new school year. Parents/ guardians are being advised of the importance of providing valid Bank or Building Society account details in the claimant’s own name. Payments cannot be made into Post Office accounts.

**Free School Meals / Uniform Grants Helpdesk**

The Free Schools Meals and Uniform Grants Helpdesk is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals/ Uniform Grants service.

It is available to assist parents/guardians and schools who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9.00am 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.

E-mails and telephone calls should no longer be made directly to individual Free School Meals/ Uniform staff as they will be diverted to the Helpdesk for response.

Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2021-22 school year and a list of Frequently Asked Questions to assist with any parental queries can be accessed by logging onto www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals.