

Date: 22nd November 2024
E-Mail: holidayvouchersupport@peterborough.gov.uk
Our Ref: PHVS – Christmas Holiday 2024



To parents/carers of pupils in Peterborough schools
and early years settings

CHILDRENS SERVICES DIRECTORATE
Peterborough City Council
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Dear Parent/Carer,

Peterborough Holiday Voucher Scheme – Christmas Holiday

Peterborough City Council will be continuing to offer our Holiday Voucher Scheme. Using the money allocated by the Department for Work and Pensions, via the Household Support Fund. The Christmas Holiday 2024 voucher will be for £40.

Appendix 1 of this letter outlines the different income related eligibility criteria based upon a child's age. For eligible young people attending sixth form colleges/further education establishments, information on how support will be offered will be sent directly by the college.

Details of how to apply for income related Free School Meals, if you have not already done so, can be found on the [Peterborough City Council](#) website on the [Free School Meals](#) page. There is a [simple application form](#) which only requires a few details and will instantly check if you are eligible. Each successful application will also bring up to £1,500 additional funding for your child's school. Children in an Early Years setting need to ask the provider to run an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) check.

For the Christmas Holiday 2024, our scheme will operate as follows –

- **All vouchers must be claimed by Midday on Friday 24th January 2025.**
- If vouchers are unclaimed, we are unable to reinstate them after this date.
- Each eligible child/young person will be issued a £40 voucher via email and/or text. This will be sent on **Thursday 19th December 2024**. You will be able to choose from ten different retailers.
- Vouchers may take until **9pm on Thursday 19th December 2024** to arrive. Look out for an email or text message from Evouchers.com (no-reply@evouchers.com) with a link to access your voucher(s). If you receive multiple vouchers, your email provider may group the emails together.
- If you haven't received your voucher link, please contact holidayvouchersupport@peterborough.gov.uk
- Any children who become eligible up to and including **Sunday 5th January 2025** will also receive vouchers. These will be sent when we are notified of newly eligible children by our Education Welfare Benefits Team or Early Years Settings.
- Details of the supermarkets which will accept the vouchers and how the voucher scheme works can be found in the frequently asked questions document sent with this letter.
- If you **do not** wish to receive the food vouchers, please let your school or setting know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate them.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.J. Cole".

Councillor Katy Cole
Cabinet Member for Children's Services &
Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Traill".

Carrie Traill
Service Director – Education
Peterborough City Council

Appendix 1 – Eligibility for Direct Voucher Scheme

Parents eligible for Funded Childcare and Education for 2-year-olds under the income-based criteria

(children aged 2 with a date of birth between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#) (JSA)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of [Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), [Working Tax Credit](#) (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The [Working Tax Credit](#) 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- [Universal Credit](#), and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments

Details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

Parents eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium under the income-based criteria

(children aged 3 and 4 with a date of birth between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2021)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#) (JSA)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA)
- Support under [part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- [Universal Credit](#) - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax not including any benefits you get

Detail can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

Parents eligible for Free School Meals (children and young people aged 4 to 16)

In order to qualify you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#) (JSA)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA)
- Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- [Universal Credit](#) - if you applied on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get Free School Meals.

If you wish to apply for a Free school meal and pupil premium, please apply online at:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please note – our systems are shared with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Eligible for 16-19 Free School Meals

Students must be enrolled in Further Education provision funded by the Education Skills Funding Agency and be in receipt of, or have parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits. A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2024:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#) (JSA)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA)
- Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you are not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#)) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- [Universal Credit](#) with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 per annum (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-guide-2024-to-2025-academic-year>

Other Eligibility

- Aged 19 or over and eligible for free school meals and are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers') or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Aged 19 to 25 and have an EHCP and accesses the bursary scheme or free school meals in their college

Students aged 16 or over on 31 August 2024 and on an Apprenticeship, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are not eligible

Children in care are not covered by the scheme as the costs of meals in the holidays are covered by fostering allowances.

How to Claim Free School Meals

We understand that families continue to live in uncertain times, and many are facing changes to their financial circumstances as a result. If you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, or your name has recently changed, and feel you now meet the criteria below, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to apply online;

- Income Support.
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190.
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work fewer hours per week.
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.

Details of the holiday voucher scheme

More details of the Holiday Voucher Scheme can be found on the [Peterborough City Council](#) website on the [Holiday Voucher Scheme](#) page.

Appendix 2 – Additional Support and Schemes

Help with the cost of living

Further information on support available in response to the cost of living can be found on the [Peterborough City Council](#) website on the [Here to help - cost of living](#) page.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme offers fully funded holiday places to eligible children and young people in Peterborough.

HAF is available to primary and secondary school children and young people who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals.

During the Christmas school holidays eligible children can access up to 4 fully funded sessions. A range of provision to suit children's interests is available across the city.

You can book a place from Monday 18th November using the online booking system <https://eequ.org/hafpeterborough> A full list of HAF providers will be shown from this date.

Bookings are available on a first come first served basis.

Details of the scheme can be found on the [Peterborough City Council](#) website on the [HAF](#) page.

Healthy Start Scheme

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, the Healthy Start scheme can help you buy healthy foods and get free vitamins. Visit <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/> to find out if you are eligible and how to apply.

Healthier Families

If you would like information and ideas on how to eat more healthily as a family, NHS Healthier Families has lots of useful information and recipes which can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>