

Dear parent/carer,

**RE: Universal Free School Meals (UFSMs)**

I am delighted to inform you that from September 2023, Tower Hamlets Council is funding universal free school meals for all secondary school pupils up to the age of sixteen.

The council has funded UFSMs for all primary school pupils since 2014 and I am proud that Tower Hamlets is the first borough in the country to extend this to all secondary school pupils.

We are investing £5.7m to ensure that the nearly 38,000 pupils in Tower Hamlets' primary and secondary schools have access to a free, healthy school meal – regardless of their family's income.

I understand the huge impact that the cost-of-living crisis has had on families. This funding will provide vital support and could save your family £550 per year, per child.

Furthermore, eating a healthy, nutritious meal supports pupils with their learning and has been shown to improve behaviour and academic achievement.

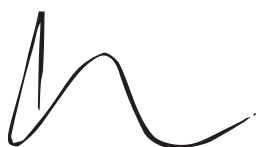
Your child will automatically receive their free school meal. However, it is vitally important that you fill in your child's registration form so that your school can receive any additional Government funding they are entitled to.

This funding goes towards teacher training, extracurricular activities and additional support for the children that need it the most.

Information about how to complete your child's registration form is here:  
[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals)

I would like to thank our secondary schools who have been working extremely hard to support the launch of UFSMs, which is being rolled out in phases across the borough. Your child's school will be in touch with more information.

I hope your family will value the offer and that your child enjoys their free school meals.  
Kind regards,



**Mayor Lutfur Rahman**

