

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

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- Funding allocated to maintained schools via local authorities in April 2014
- Funding for Academies to be allocated by the ACMF (outcome to be announced shortly)
- LBB's allocation for implementation of UIFSM:
- Local Authority £600,000
- Voluntary Aided Schools £346,000

Revenue

- The Government rate per meal is fixed at £2.30
- Funding will be based on an 87% take-up figure x 190 days
- Additional funding for small schools minimum of £3,000
- Payment in June for the first two terms of the 2014/2015 academic year based on the January 2014 Census
- Adjustments to be made around Easter 2015 based on the January 2015 Census
- Funding is guaranteed for two years

Legislation

 Under the Children and Families Bill the Government introduced an amendment placing a new duty on schools to provide UIFSM

The Secretary of State has the power to extend to other year groups by Order

- Academies, Free Schools and PRU's as well as maintained schools are included
- The Government expects that hot meals are routinely provided
- New simplified Food Standards to be implemented in January 2015 following a period of consultation

 Following visits to schools much of the capital funding has been earmarked for the purchase of additional heavy equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, combination ovens, cookers and hot cupboards

Some schools will require minor building works to be carried out to enable extra equipment to be installed For schools using the in-house service all necessary additional light equipment such as plates, sectional trays, beakers, jugs and cutlery will be delivered by the end of the summer term in readiness for September

 Kitchen staffing levels have also been assessed to ensure that the necessary hours are in place for the beginning of the new term

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Questions

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