

MAYOR OF LONDON

**Universal Free School Meals provision to
London's primary school children**

WHAT DID THE MAYOR ANNOUNCE?

- The Mayor announced an historic **£130m emergency, one-off funding** plan to help families with the spiralling **cost of living** by expanding London's free school meals offer, ensuring that **primary school children** in London will receive **free school meals** in the **2023/24 academic year**. Rollout will take place in September 2023.
- This funding will help up to **270,000 primary school children** in the capital receive free school meals and could save families around **£440** across the year.
- This is emergency funding and he will **continue to call on Government** to step forward and provide the funding to make this permanent.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF UNIVERSAL FSM?

Extending free school meals to children who do not currently receive it, potentially **saves families up to £440** per academic year.

In a review of UIFSM, students receiving FSM **4-8 weeks' more progress in Maths and English** than similar pupils in comparison areas. Improvements in attainment were strongest for pupils from less affluent families.

Research from CPAG suggests that making FSM universal helps **reduce stigma and boosts take up among families who need them most.**

Food insecurity affects **children's wellbeing**, with children from families experiencing food insecurity more likely to suffer from mental health problems and disorders.

In a study of the impact of UFSM in 4 London boroughs, receiving UFSM reduced prevalence of **obesity by 9.3 per cent** among Reception children and 5.6 per cent among Year 6 children on average.

Economies of scale can make large savings. When Islington introduced universal FSM, it re-tendered its catering contract on a joint contract with Camden, which **saved them £1m per year.**

ONGOING REGISTRATION FOR GOVERNMENT FSM



It is important to still register for Government free school meals under the universal scheme, even if you think you may not be eligible.



You may help our school to secure additional funding to support pupils that need it most. Potentially worth £1,300 per year per pupil.



There may be further financial support that you are entitled to linked to registration. Speak to your school or borough.

DISCUSSION

