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Our ref HSF Vouchers

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Distribution of free food support vouchers to families who receive benefit related free school meals

I am writing to you about the forthcoming distribution of the free food support vouchers provided by the county council and to provide details about other emergency financial support available.

The vouchers are available to families who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. One voucher is provided to every eligible child.

We intend to start to distribute the vouchers to families from Tuesday 8 February 2022 and expect the process to be completed by Friday 11th February.


After a careful review of the number of families eligible for the scheme, we are delighted to let you know that we will be increasing the value of each voucher to £80 – which is a £30 increase on the original value planned.

How will the vouchers be provided to parents?

To help the voucher distribution process go as smoothly as possible, we would be grateful if you would highlight the following information to parents.

The vouchers will be sent out by email or text. Emails will be sent out by our voucher provider, Huggg LTD and will be sent from the address:
hello@huggg.me

The emails will look like this:

Powered by 

Derbyshire County Council has sent you a gift

[Tell me more](#) This link will expire 3rd Feb 2023[Website](#) | [Partner Terms](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Help](#)© Huggs Limited, registered in England and Wales Company #09579886. Registered office
Runway East Bristol, 1 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6AA.

06b1b7b2-a3f9-4959-9677-b9d495a2d441

Vouchers sent by text will be sent from the Council's 'email to text' system and will show as being sent from Derbyshire County Council. The text messages will include a link to download the voucher from the Huggs website.

If parents and carers do not receive a voucher by the Tuesday 15 February 2022, please advise them to complete the online enquiry form (which will be available on the page from Tuesday 8 February) at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Securing financial support for families from the Household Support Fund using the children's professionals referral route

Additional financial support is available for families facing hardship via a grant from the county council's Household Support Fund.

The quickest and most effective route to secure funding for families is to use the children's professionals referral route with [full guidance available online](#).

The referral and assessment form can be accessed [online](#). This link is only for professionals to use to make a referral and should not be shared with parents.

We recognise that not all schools have the capacity to carry out this work but we appreciate your support in helping to identify families facing financial hardship.

How can parents apply for financial support from the Household Support Fund independently?

Information about how parents can apply for a grant for from the Household Support Fund for themselves is available on our website at:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund.

Applications via this route are taken over the phone and, due to very high demand, callers may have to wait a considerable amount of time to get through or to receive a call back.

Families do not have to be eligible for benefit related free school meals to access a Household Support Fund grant, as we recognise there may be families who are not eligible but who may be struggling financially due to being on a low income.

Please note that eligibility for the free food vouchers does not prevent a family from applying for a grant payment from the Household Support Fund before the end of March 2022, when the fund closes.

However, during the week Monday 7 February to Friday 11 February only, when the free food vouchers are distributed, we will be unable approve any further grants to eligible households. This is because their free food voucher will help to meet their financial difficulties that they are facing that week.

Thank you for your support to help families facing financial hardship

Your support to help us deliver the free food voucher scheme has been invaluable. We recognise that timescales were often short and requests were made at a busy time in the school year.

Thank you for your help to enable us to support families, children and young people facing challenging financial issues across our county.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Edwards

Head of Service Programmes