

Appendix 1: No Child Goes Hungry School Food Provision Grant

This appendix sets out initial feedback from schools following the Cabinet decision (December 15 2022) to establish a £1.5m Food Provision Grant in response to the No Child Goes Hungry Scrutiny Report.

In December each school received a grant based on a formula that combines total pupil numbers and total numbers of FSM pupils. This enables schools to set up schemes to address food security or to enhance work they are already doing.

It is important to note that for the first time ever, this decision allocated additional discretionary grant funding to every school in Cumbria – including academies and free schools, which Cumbria County Council has no responsibility for. This was because regardless of which school they attend, they are all Cumbrian children, affected in equal measure by this cost of living crisis.

This report provides a set of case studies submitted by schools demonstrating their view of the impact of the grant across a range of schools.

This complements overall feedback from representatives of the Primary Heads Association and Cumbria Association of Secondary Heads who have reported on the positive impact of the Grant across all Cumbrian schools.

Funding Formulae

The allocation of the Food Provision Grant to schools in Cumbria was calculated on a formula basis using elements of the National Funding Formula including pupil numbers, number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals, weighted number of pupils classified as being in IDACI (deprivation) bands A – F. Where the allocation for an individual school was less than £500 the allocation was uplifted to £500.

Guidance for use of the School Food Provision Grant

At the school's discretion, the grant could be used to:

- subsidise existing food/nutrition schemes – school fruit / milk programmes
- support costs for Food Technology lessons
- provide a school lunch on a day when a child does not have appropriate provision in place
- address costs where a child's school lunch account prevents them from accessing meals
- develop or enhance breakfast and breaktime provision
- provide universal access to appropriate, nutritional snacks (including milk) throughout the school day.

Case Studies

School/District	What have schools done so far?	What difference is this making?
Workington Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid for ingredients for all FSM students in KS3 and KS4 to use in Food Technology lessons. • Provided a hot meal for FSM students involved in after school tutoring via the National Tutoring Programme. These sessions run 3 nights per week and will run on weekends from March until the exams in June. • Topped up the accounts of FSM students to enable them to buy more food in school. • Purchased toast that is provided free of charge to all FSM students every morning. • Topped up FSM vouchers provided to students on the recent strike day to enable them to afford a 'meal deal' from the local supermarket. 	<p>Young people have the food resources they need to engage in lessons</p> <p>Improved attendance at the tutoring group</p>
Netherhall School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a breakfast club. • Established an in-house online store. • Purchased PE kit for each of the schools disadvantaged and FSM eligible pupils. • Seeking grant funding to continue these initiatives into the next academic year. 	<p>Improved attendance and engagement in lessons.</p>
Waberthwaite C of E Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid for Phunky Foods and food tech lessons, which are normally paid out of the school budget or by teaching staff using their own money. • Established a breakfast club as Waberthwaite is ineligible for the DfE scheme. • Complemented the Poverty Proofing training that the school have recently completed. • Supported the in-house catering provision to ensure all children have a healthy nutritious meal. 	<p>Provision of breakfast club in school that is ineligible for DfE funding.</p> <p>Support for Food Tech education for all pupils.</p>
Dallam School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased food via the Food Tech to distribute produce to pupils from households not in receipt of FSM. • Added a top-up allowance to the existing cashless catering system. • Contacted relevant parents/carers to let them know about the additional support. 	<p>Increased support for households ineligible for Free School Meals. Ensured that children access a free meal in the school day.</p>

Ullswater Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used grant to focus on households not in receipt of FSM in financial hardship • Contacted families to find out what support they needed and received more than 60 responses (a significant increase compared to previous similar exercises). • Gave support co-ordinated by the Pastoral Lead. • Allocated a daily food allowance at the same financial level as a Free School Meal. • Review at the end of the week usage of the allowance to monitor usage and highlight further concerns. 	<p>Provided a daily food allowance to 61 students.</p> <p>Met significantly higher demand from households not in receipt of FSM.</p> <p>Families have been appreciative of the help provided.</p>
Brisbane Park Infant School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spent more on breakfast supplies and after school club supplies (bread, crumpets, cereal apple juice etc). • Been able to offer a variety of food. • Helped struggling families by buying them their shopping. • Purchased headlice shampoo as a few parents are struggling to buy the treatment for their children. • Purchased Calpol in school for emergency reasons (would telephone the parent before administering) 	<p>Families have been supported with household essentials.</p>
Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support specified students with additional food. • Funded students not able to top up accounts. • Cleared deficit accounts for identified students. 	<p>Increased affordability of food at school.</p>

Additional Comments from Schools

Netherhall School

“The support of the local authority is hugely appreciated by all of us here at Netherhall School and throughout the community of Maryport.”

Waberthwaite C of fE Primary School

“It is invaluable for such a small school as ours.

“Especially in the cost of living crisis we all find ourselves in, showing children how to cook, from easy ingredients and how easy it is to cook, will hopefully progress out of school and more children will want to cook and know more about healthy living too.

“Any money into schools is amazing, more and more children are taking up breakfast clubs, after school clubs. We are very lucky we have a fantastic in-house school cook.”

Ullswater Community College

“At UCC we have always worked under the premise that no child should go hungry during the school day. The Poverty Grant provided by Cumbria County Council allowed us to go a step further”.

Brisbane Park Infant School

“This has made a difference as at the moment with the energy bills we wouldn't be able to help families within our normal budget.”

“(We know the grant says food poverty but all these things have helped our parents, we are in a deprived area of Barrow town).”

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

“Clear financial benefits for some families; additional food for others. Difficult to identify the families that can't pay and those that don't (but can).”

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