

6b. DfE consultation on Free School Meals/ Early Years Pupil Premium eligibility as a result of Universal Credit rollout

The DfE has just launched a consultation relating to the identification of FSM and EYPP pupils once families are transferred onto the Universal Credit benefit scheme as opposed to the current benefits and tax credit system.

Under the new proposals, schools will still be responsible for identifying parents that may be eligible, but the criteria for the FSM/ EYPP entitlement will be based on net earnings instead of total household income (including benefits) as currently.

Protection is proposed for those pupils who are currently eligible where they would lose that eligibility, until such time as they leave their current phase of education (e.g. end of Primary, end of Secondary).

The revised criteria will also affect identification of FSM eligible pupils that trigger Pupil Premium FSM funding.

Barnet will be submitting a response on behalf of the local authority, but Schools Forum members and schools may wish to respond to the consultation directly; the consultation document can be found at: https://consult.education.gov.uk/healthy-pupil-unit/fsm/supporting_documents/Consultation%20%20Free%20school%20meals%20and%20EYPP%20under%20Universal%20Credit.pdf