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16th October 2026

Important Update on School Holiday Food Payments

Dear Parent/Carer,

- During school holidays, families on Free School Meals have been receiving **food payments** from Trafford Council.
- These payments have now **come to an end**.
- This is because the Household Support Fund has ended.
- The Household Support Fund paid for these vouchers over the last few years.
- A new fund called the Crisis and Resilience Fund has replaced the Household Support Fund.
- The new fund has **different rules** about how the money can be used.
- **Unfortunately, families will not receive food payments for the October half term holiday in 2026, and no future payments will be made during school holidays.**

Help is still available

The Government is supporting people. They are:

- Removing the two-child limit on Universal Credit. That means families claiming Universal Credit can receive the child element for **all eligible children**.
- Expanding the Warm Home Discount. That means eligible families receive a **£150 discount on their electricity bill** to help with energy costs.
- Extending Free School Meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. That means your child will receive free school meals if someone in your home receives Universal Credit.
- Funding the Holiday Activities and Food Programme until 2029

Local services can provide support

Support is available in Trafford if you need help:

- Visit the **Money Advice Referral Tool** to find support including benefits and debt advice: <https://mart.resolvepoverty.org>
- Visit one of the **Trafford Community Hubs** for help to find support. The Community Hubs can help if you are in a financial crisis. Use this [link](#) to visit the website to find your closest Community Hub.
- Trafford Community Hubs or your child's school can refer you to Trafford North and Trafford South **Foodbanks**.
- You can apply for a **Housing Payment** if you are struggling to pay rent. You can apply on Trafford Council's website using this [link](#).
- Children on free school meals can register for **activities in the school holidays**. This is funded by the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
- You can apply to **Trafford Assist** if you need help buying food or paying for gas and electricity. You can receive one emergency payment each year. You can apply on Trafford Council's website using this [link](#).
- The Citizens Advice out-of-hours helpline can provide advice at times that are convenient for families. Call or text 0161 850 5053 between 6pm and 9pm, 7 days a week.
- The Trafford Directory has more information on support, advice, and activities. You can visit the **Trafford Directory** by using this [link](#).

Support is available so please use the information above to find help.

Kind regards,



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