



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
Sessions House
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 418913
Ask for: Christine McInnes
Email: christine.mcinnnes@kent.gov.uk
Date: 11th March 2021

Dear Colleagues

Reclaiming Costs for FSM Vouchers

Many of you have queried how you can reclaim costs incurred through issuing Free School Meal vouchers during the period 4th to 16th January. The Government guidance has recently been updated and it states that the claims window will open in April 2021 but further details of how this will operate are still to be confirmed.

The latest Free School Meals guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#claiming-additional-costs>

DFE School to School Support Offer Extended

Over the year the DFE have been offering time-limited school-to-school recovery support to schools, this support is delivered by experienced system leaders and can be used to help schools in overcoming the challenges faced or exacerbated as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Support takes the form of up to 5 days system leader support. Where schools have particularly challenging needs, additional support may be available. The support can be tailored to the individual needs of each school or trust, but it could include, for example, a focus on:

- support or planning with remote learning
- how to use catch-up funding to address gaps in knowledge
- lost leadership capacity due to coronavirus (COVID-19) circumstances

If you are interested in taking up this offer, please inform either Tel German (Tel.German@theeducationpeople.org) for Primary Schools or Siobhan Price (Siobhan.Price@theeducationpeople.org) for Secondary and they will liaise directly with the team allocating the support on your behalf.

If you are already in receipt of this support and would like it to continue, please let either Tel or Siobhan know.

Children and Young People Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy

The 2021-2025 Children and Young People Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy consultation is available at www.kent.gov.uk/suicideprevention with a deadline for responses by 18th March.

The strategy has been developed by the Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Network, which consists of over 130 partners working together to reduce the number of suicides in Kent and Medway. The consultation is asking for views on both the CYP strategy and the all age strategy, which will enable them to be revised and adapted accordingly to meet the needs of local people and organisations.

Yours sincerely



Christine McInnes
Director of Education