

County Council Meeting – 13 October 2022**Question to Councillor Sutton
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People****By Councillor Pardesi**

Question

What is this Council's response when headteachers across the country report that children are so hungry they are eating rubbers, hiding in the playground because they don't have lunch money and even pretending to eat out of empty lunch boxes?

Reply

Children in reception and Key Stage 1 aged 4 – 7 years old are entitled to universal free school meals and so are able to access a cooked meal each day at school. Where headteachers are aware of children attending school hungry, they will support parents in checking the eligibility for free school meals. If there is no eligibility, then the school would look to support children so that they are not going hungry. Schools will also signpost families to other agencies who will be able to assist with food parcels and vouchers to be used during certain school holidays.

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and you can save yourself time and money. [Overview - Free school meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)

We have been using the Household Support Fund allocated to Staffordshire County Council to ensure that throughout the school holidays children in receipt of free school meals are able to access food vouchers to ensure people have access to help and support when they are not in school. This has resulted in:

1. A £15.00 Voucher to children eligible for Free School Meals over the May Half Term and for two weeks over the summer holidays.
2. Vouchers to support our care leavers.
3. Provided additional funding to enable the [Staffordshire Warmer Homes Scheme](#).

If you would like more information on how Staffordshire County Council will use this funding, please click on the link - [Household Support Fund \(HSF\) - Cabinet Report, May 2022](#)

[Household Support Fund 2022 | Staffordshire Connects](#)

