

Appendix 3 - Maintained Nursery Classes and School ONLY **Free School Meals**

Under what circumstances are nursery-aged children entitled to free school meals? How will this be funded?

Children are currently entitled to free school meals if they meet the following criteria:

- a) *They are attending a maintained nursery class or nursery school.*
- b) *They are attending both before and after the lunch period on the same day.*
- c) *Their parents are receiving one or more of the following support payments:*
 - i. *Income Support*
 - ii. *Income Based Jobseekers Allowance*
 - iii. *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;*
or
 - iv. *Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £15,575; or*
 - v. *The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.*

There is currently no entitlement to free school meals for nursery aged children who are attending PVI settings. Local authorities however have the discretion to fund or support such settings to provide free meals. The Authority will review this following receipt of final Guidance from DCSF.

If lunch is provided for nursery children as part of the free entitlement then practice must follow the principles and meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Careful thought must be given to meeting children's needs in age appropriate ways and ensuring continuity and consistency across different parts of the day.