

## FREE FOOD VOUCHERS FOR EASTER 2022

We are writing to you to confirm our plans to provide food vouchers for 31,000 children and young people across the city for the Easter holiday.

**Please Note: The national grant funding to support this initiative is due to end after Easter and there are currently no national plans to continue this support after the Easter holiday. The Council will continue to ask the Government for further support as we understand how important this scheme has been to so many families and children across our city.**

The Government has provided a Household Support Grant to assist with food and energy costs over the winter period. Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic, changes to Universal Credit, and rising costs for food and energy.

A £30 food voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over the Easter holiday:

- Families who claim income based Free School Meals (FSM).
- Families who get income assessed Early Years Support (2-4 Year Olds).
- Young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers).

### Our Plan

We have chosen to continue to use Edenred as the supplier of the vouchers again as schools and parent/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

- We aim to have the voucher letters sent out to parents by second class post, and parents will receive them **w/c Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher, and we are asking parents get in touch with their school/establishment in the first instance if they need help with downloading or printing their vouchers. We are also providing them with the contact details for Edenred.
- During week commencing **28<sup>th</sup> March** we will send schools an unredeemed eCodes list via Anycomms. This will identify all the children at your school who received a food voucher letter for February half term, enabling you to support any families that you know need some extra help.
- This list will also include unredeemed eCode information for October half term, Christmas and February half term.
- Any child/young person that becomes eligible for a food voucher between **11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022** will be sent a voucher letter w/c **11th April 2022**.

## The Process

- As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their Easter vouchers - [www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery](http://www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery)
- Enter their unique 16-digit e-Code and select their chosen supermarket. Edenred give them a choice of 10 supermarkets: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S, McColl's, Company Shop, Iceland and Farmfoods.
- Parents/carers are able to download their vouchers for more than one supermarket. For example, £10 for Aldi and £5 for Asda.
- The downloaded E-Gift Card/Voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. If they can't find this, they should check their Junk/Spam folder

**Please note that codes need to be activated within 3 months or they will be cancelled.** Once they have claimed their voucher on the Edenred website the voucher will be valid for 12 months.

We will again provide schools with a short 'How to...' video for parents that you can upload to your school website/social media if you wish. The instructions on how to download the video will be sent directly to Headteachers and Business Managers in a separate email.

## Where can families get further help?

- The FSM voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567, option 4, option 3, and can offer help to parents experiencing difficulties with their e-Codes or with general FSM enquiries.
- Parents/carers can also contact Edenred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at [freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com) or telephone 0333 400 5932.
- Schools can contact Edenred at [freeschoolmeals@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmeals@edenred.com)

## Please note:

- For those schools that have asked to distribute their own voucher letters to parents, we will send you a list of all eligible children in your school along with their individual letters. You will need to maintain auditable distribution records of these codes for future reference.

If you have any concerns about the plans for the Easter food vouchers, or would like to discuss the arrangements for your school further, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [schoolfood@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfood@sheffield.gov.uk)

If a parent is facing financial hardship there is free advice and support available at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call on 0808 278 7820. They can also find further information about support at: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people)