



Knowsley Council

7 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

After weeks of chasing and numerous telephone conversations with the Department for Education, the Council has now received further clarification on the free school meals system which will operate over the summer holiday period.

Specifically, we have been seeking assurances from the Government that schools in Knowsley can continue to use the Wonde scheme and that schools can be sure that all costs will be covered - as has been promised nationally.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts and the efforts of our local Members of Parliament, the Government has decided that **ONLY** schools using the Edenred voucher system (the national system) will be certain to have their full costs covered.

Therefore, we have had to advise all schools in Knowsley to transfer to the national scheme immediately. With less than two weeks of term left, this is not the position we wanted for parents or one which we would want our schools to be in. The Wonde scheme is working well, and we know our families are happy with it, so this situation is even more frustrating.

Unfortunately, the Government's decision leaves us with no alternative but to move to their preferred scheme.

Your school will be in touch with you directly to explain the new process. In the meantime, I just wanted to thank you for your ongoing support and assure you that the Council will do all it can to continue to support local families through what we know is already a very difficult time.

Councillor Graham Morgan
Leader of Knowsley Council



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