



“Working, Praying, Sharing and Learning Together”
“Gweithio, Gweddiwn, Rhannu a Ddysgu gyda’n Gilydd”

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Thursday 9th April 2020

Free School Meals Update – In line with Welsh Government Guidance, Blaenau Gwent Council will cease the delivery/collection service for pupil’s meals from **Monday 4th April**. The Council is working towards a weekly direct payment system for families eligible for Free School Meals as its replacement.

They will instead be offering a direct payment method, whereby the weekly sum of £19.50 per child who attends full time education (Reception to Y11)(which equates to £3.90 per day - £1.00 breakfast and £2.90 for lunch), will be paid directly into your bank/building society or post office account via BAC’s payment. The payment will be issued to cover the weekly costs of your child/children’s free school meal(s). The money is to be used to pay for nutritious food for your child/children.

Direct payments are only available for eligible Free School Meal children who attend schools within Blaenau Gwent. If your child or children attend school outside of Blaenau Gwent, then you will need to apply to/contact the Local Authority in which the school is situated for details of your entitlement.
If you do not have a bank or building society account, you will need to contact Blaenau Gwent Council on (01495) 311556 urgently, in order to discuss any possible alternative methods of payment.

You should complete this application if your child/children are eligible for Free School Meals.

https://iweb.itouchvision.com/portal/f?p=customer:category_link:::::CUID,LANG:A2B40E379272FB6820B9E9053140A1A8C0CCEBC8,EN&P_LANG=en

The first application round is now open and will close on Friday 17th April 2020 at 5pm.

Guidance relating to free school meal eligibility can be found via the following link: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/resident/housing-benefit/welfare-reform/free-school-meals-clothing-grants/>

If your children are not entitled to free school meals and you and/or your family are facing difficulties as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, meaning that you require help and support, please visit the Council's website via the following link, to access information on options which may be available to you:

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/emergencies-crime-prevention/local-help-support-covid-19/>

