Dear Schools,

We would like to communicate the message below to as many parents and guardians as possible, and as you have the lines of communication in place already, we are hoping you will be able to help facilitate this.

**School Essential Grants – Academic Year beginning September 2024**

Last year we changed the process for claiming a School Essentials Grant (formerly Uniform Grant). The change was introduced to reduce the need for form filling, and speed up the process of issuing the payments, therefore enabling the majority of parents and guardians to receive the payment before the end of July. The change was a success and we issued over 3800 payments before the school holidays began, enabling parents plenty of time to order school uniforms.

That change in process will continue this year but to ensure its success, it is important that only people who need to apply, submit an application form. We are required to manually process every application form received, therefore any form submitted unnecessarily will delay the process for parents and guardians who have never claimed before and genuinely need to submit a new form.

**Before you submit an application for a School Essential Grants – Academic Year 24/25, please read the guidance below as you may not need to reapply this year.**

These payments will be issued in respect of children where the parent or guardian is able to answer YES to ALL of following questions;

• Are your children in receipt of eFSM?

• Are your children in Year 1 or above for the 24/25 academic school year? (02/09/24 – 21/07/25)

• Did you receive a School Essentials Grant (formerly known as Uniform Grant) between 1st July 2023 and 31st May 2024?

If you answer YES to ALL of the questions above, then you do not need to apply for a School Essential Grant this year, as the payments will be issued automatically by 30th July 2024. If you have not received the payment by 30th July 2024, please email freeschoolmeals@flintshire.gov.uk to advise the payment has not been received.

If your child is entering reception, is moving from a school outside of Flintshire, or your circumstances have changed meaning you are now eligible for Free School Meals and a School Essential Grant, you will need to complete an application. This form can be found on Flintshire’s website by searching for ‘Free School Meals’ or by typing in the short URL [www.flintshire.gov.uk/FSM](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/FSM).