

Ealing Council
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07 July 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Supermarket vouchers for summer school holidays to support families

I am writing to advise you that, **if your child is eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals**, then Ealing Council will be providing your household with additional financial support during the summer school holidays.

You will receive a supermarket voucher ahead of the summer school holiday to support you to meet food and other essential costs over the school holiday.

Ealing Council has been allocated funding to support families with children on low incomes who have been affected by the pandemic via the Government's **COVID Local Support Grant** scheme and this has been extended to cover the summer holiday period. The council will top up the money received through this grant so families can continue to be provided with vouchers worth £15 per eligible pupil per week for the full six week holiday.

A company called Blackhawk Network is administering the voucher scheme for Ealing Council at no cost to the council.

How much are the vouchers worth?

Summer voucher - £90 voucher per eligible pupil to cover the six-week summer holiday

Please note that children in Reception to Year 2 who receive a free school meal under the universal infant free school meals scheme (but would not otherwise be eligible) are not entitled to receive the vouchers. To be eligible, you must be entitled to a benefits-related free school meal due to your low family income.

How do I redeem the voucher?

1. Blackhawk Network will email you a 16-digit code. This will be sent to the email address your child's school has on their records. Please keep an eye on your inbox and check your junk or spam folder. If we do not hold an email address for you, your code will be texted or posted to you.
2. When you have received your code, go to www.ealingcouncil.select-your-reward.co.uk
3. Type in your unique 16-digit code on the homepage and click 'Redeem'
4. Make your selection and click 'Checkout'
5. Enter a valid email address where your confirmation and voucher will be sent.

6. Review and accept the terms and conditions before placing your order.
7. Once you have placed your order, your voucher will be emailed to you within 24 hours.
8. You can use your voucher either online or in store

Where can I spend the voucher?

You can choose where you spend your voucher. The voucher can be used at the following retailers: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose, M&S and Aldi. The voucher should be used to purchase food and essential clothing, for example, school uniform and should not be spent on non-essential items. Prices vary from one place to another so you might want to consider comparing prices for the items you need before deciding which supermarket to use.

Expiry dates

Voucher codes are only valid for three months from the date of issue but once redeemed you then have between one and five years to spend the voucher, depending on which retailer you choose. So please do ensure you redeem your voucher code well ahead of the expiry date and contact Blackhawk in plenty of time if you have not received your voucher. Any vouchers not redeemed by the expiry date will be returned to the council and the money will be allocated to local welfare assistance.

Need help?

If you have any questions, please refer to the frequently asked questions on the website as these may provide the answer that you need: www.select-your-reward.co.uk/Faqs

If you have not received a voucher code by 30th July 2021, please check your junk or spam mailbox folder.

Otherwise, please complete the online contact form at www.select-your-reward.co.uk/ContactUs

Please do not contact your school directly regarding your vouchers.

Other support available

Anyone struggling to meet food costs, cover their rent or purchase essential items can apply for financial assistance. To find more information or to make an application go to:

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201264/help_for_residents/2687/help_with_your_money/2

Yours faithfully,



Kim Price
Planning and Resources Strategic Lead (Children's Services)