


19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about upcoming changes to **Free School Meals (FSM)** that may affect your child from 1 September 2026.

On 11 May, the Department for Education announced changes to future FSM eligibility linked to Universal Credit. **These changes will affect both families who already receive FSM and those who may be eligible but have not yet applied.**

 Since April 2018, children who became eligible for FSM have kept that entitlement even if their family's circumstances later changed. **This protection will end at the close of the 2025–26 school year.**

 **As a result, all FSM eligibility must be checked again between 1 June and 31 August 2026**  
**This applies to:**

- **pupils who currently receive FSM, and**
- **families applying for FSM for the first time.**

If your child is confirmed as eligible during this period, they will receive free school meals for the whole of the **2026–27 school year**, even if your circumstances change. After this, eligibility will be reviewed each year.

Please check the criteria below to see whether your family may be eligible:

**Targeted FSM (with additional Pupil Premium funding for schools):**

- You receive Universal Credit and your household income is £7,400 a year or less
- You receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- You receive income-related Employment and Support Allowance or the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Your family has no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

**Expanded FSM (free school meals only):**

- You receive Universal Credit and your household income is above £7,400

**All current FSM arrangements will only remain in place until the end of the 2025–26 school year.**

If you are not currently receiving FSM but think you may be eligible, you can apply online at [Online FSM Application](https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust) ( <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust> )

If you already receive free school meals please log into your existing application (also via the link above) and check your information is up to date so fresh checks can be completed. Do not start a fresh application.

**Our priority is to ensure that every child entitled to free school meals continues to receive them.**

Please let us know if you need any help or support with this information via the school office, as we are always here ready to help.

Yours faithfully,

Grace Clarke

Office Manager