



June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to update you on important national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, following the latest guidance from the Department for Education.

- From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals will expand to all children from households in receipt of universal credit regardless of household earnings, meaning that more families may qualify for support. This change is part of the government's wider plan to ensure that children from lower-income households can access a nutritious daily meal at school. More information can be found here: [Expanding free school meals: what parents need to know – The Education Hub](#)

The government has also confirmed that transitional protections—which currently allow pupils to continue receiving Free School Meals even if their circumstances change—will come to an end at the close of the 2025/26 academic year. All pupils will need to meet the new eligibility criteria in order to continue receiving Free School Meals from September 2026, therefore all parents must reapply using this [link](#), which can be done from June 2026 to ensure eligibility is in place from September.

To clarify, current Free School Meal entitlements will stop at the end of July 2026 unless families reapply using the above link and meet the new eligibility criteria.

To help us plan our provision for September, we need to understand how many pupils may become newly eligible under the updated criteria. **We kindly ask all parents to click on this [link](#) to complete our short survey by Friday 10 July 2026.**

Your response is extremely valuable and will help us ensure we are fully prepared to support every eligible child.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Kurt Ringmo
Business Manager

