

Dear Parents/Carers

Important changes to Free School Meals eligibility came into effect from September 2026

From the start of the 2026/2027 academic year:

- Eligibility for Free School Meals is being expanded to include all families receiving Universal Credit, regardless of earnings.
- This means that families earning more than £7,400 per year who receive Universal Credit may now qualify.
- At the same time, previous protections (in place since 2018) will end, and eligibility will be reviewed annually.

Why this matters

Registering for Free School Meals is important because it can:

- Provide your child with access to a healthy, nutritious meal each day
- Help ensure your child can access additional support and opportunities available in school.

Who should apply?

You should apply if you:

- Receive Universal Credit
- Have a child attending our school

Even if you are unsure, we strongly encourage you to apply—many more families will now qualify under the new rules.

How to apply

From the start of the new academic school year 2026, the Government has introduced changes to free school meal eligibility, extending it to include all children from households receiving Universal Credit.

To continue receiving free school meals from the new academic school year in September 2026, households must meet the eligibility criteria in place at the start of the academic year.

There are now two categories of eligibility:

- Targeted free school meals – based on the existing criteria for children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.
- Expanded free school meals – a new criteria for children who do not meet the targeted criteria but live in households receiving Universal Credit regardless of other income.

All current awards of free school meals will have their eligibility re-checked from 1 June 2026 to 1 October 2026.

You can complete an application for free school meals now if you will meet the new eligibility from September by following the link below:

[Online FSM Application](#)

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Christian Park

Executive Headteacher