

June 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you about important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) provision that have been introduced by the government. These changes will affect all current and future families with children that wish to apply for free school meals.

The government has announced that all transitional protections for Free School Meals will end on 31st July 2026. From 1st September 2026, the eligibility criteria for free school meals will be expanded to include all families receiving Universal Credit. (Transitional protections for FSM were introduced in 2018 to ensure children remained eligible for FSMs even if their household circumstances changed).

As a result of these changes:

- More families will be eligible for free school meals
- Any family with a child who currently receives free school meals will need to **reapply**
- Families who may now become eligible under the new criteria will also need to **submit a new application**
- Free School Meal eligibility now needs to be **regularly reviewed**

If your child is currently in receipt of Free School Meals, you must reapply.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers who feel they are eligible to complete the application process promptly to ensure there is no interruption to your child's entitlement to Free School meals or to find out if you may be eligible under the new guidance.

To do so, please complete this form [Click here](#)

You only need to complete this form once. Subsequent rechecks of your eligibility will be carried out regularly to assess whether your child continues to be eligible for free school meals or if they become eligible. If you move your child to a new school, your child's new school may assess whether you continue to be eligible for free school meals. You should contact the school or local authority if you have a change in financial circumstances.

If you have any questions or require support with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours Faithfully,



Mr J Franks
Headteacher