



Dear Parents and Carers,

15 July 2026

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Changes to Benefits related Free School Meals and Transitional Protections

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will take effect from the start of the 2026/27 school year.

Historically, many families have been protected under "transitional protection" rules. This meant a child kept their free school meals even if financial circumstances changed. **The government will officially end all transitional protections at the end of this current academic year.**

What is changing in September?

From September, the eligibility rules are being expanded. Any household receiving **Universal Credit** will now be entitled to a free meal. Because of this, the meal program will be split into two categories:

- **Targeted FSM:** For families earning £7,400 or less annually on Universal Credit (or on certain other qualifying benefits). This category helps the school secure extra funding to support your child.
- **Expanded FSM:** A new meal-only category for Universal Credit households earning *above* £7,400 per year.

What you need to do...

Because the transitional protections are ending, **children will not automatically continue to receive benefits related free school meals from September without a new eligibility check.**

Please note that this change does not apply to Uniform Infant Free School Meals where all children in the key Stage 1 will continue to receive a free meal. However, there are other benefits available such a pupil premium which can really help your child and so please do check your eligibility.

To ensure your child's meals continue without disruption, please complete the form by clicking the link below: .

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ByFEKewDHA>

If you are unsure if you qualify or need help with the application process, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your prompt action in making sure our records are up to date.

Yours sincerely,

L. Bailey

Mrs L Bailey
Headteacher