

**Maximise our potential, to be the best we can be, every day.**

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

The government has recently announced changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) in England. These changes are designed to ensure that more children can benefit from a healthy meal during the school day. According to the updated Department for Education guidance published on 30 June 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals from the start of the 2026–27 academic year.

### Who may now qualify?

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals if your household receives:

- Universal Credit (regardless of your earnings)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The most significant change is that all families receiving Universal Credit can now apply, even if they would not previously have met the earnings threshold.

### Why is it important to apply?

In addition to providing your child with a free school meal each day, registering for Free School Meals can help the school access additional funding to support students' learning and wellbeing.

### What should I do next?

To see if your children can get free school meals (FSM), please fill in all sections of this form and return it to their school. Printed copies are available from the school office. To ensure your child receives funding in September, please complete and return to school by **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**.

If you have multiple children attending different schools, you will need to complete a separate form for each school.

If you have any questions or would like support with an application, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs L Turner**  
Headteacher

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## Your details

Enter the details of the parent or guardian who is applying for free school meals.

First name

Last name

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)

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National insurance number (if you have one)

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Asylum support reference number (previously NASS reference number)

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Contact phone number (this can be a mobile number)

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Contact email (We'll use your email to address to confirm your application or for more information)

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## Children and school details

Include all children that will be attending this school. Print extra sheets if you need them.

|                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Child 1</b>                                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>First name</b>                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last name</b>                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of birth</b><br>(DD/MM/YYYY)                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Include details of child's previous school (optional)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School name</b>                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School postcode</b>                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Child 2</b>                                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>First name</b>                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last name</b>                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of birth</b><br>(DD/MM/YYYY)                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Include details of child's previous school (optional)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School name</b>                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School postcode</b>                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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## Additional children

Print extra sheets if you need them.

|                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Child</b>                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>First name</b>                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last name</b>                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of birth</b><br>(DD/MM/YYYY)                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Include details of child's previous school (optional)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School name</b>                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School postcode</b>                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Child</b>                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>First name</b>                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Last name</b>                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of birth</b><br>(DD/MM/YYYY)                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Include details of child's previous school (optional)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School name</b>                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School postcode</b>                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Child</b>      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>First name</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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|                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Last name</b>                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of birth</b><br>(DD/MM/YYYY)                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Include details of child's previous school (optional)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School name</b>                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>School postcode</b>                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Declaration

By signing below, I confirm that:

I allow the use of the data in this form for the purpose of checking whether my children are entitled to free school meals.

I allow the sharing of the above data with the schools my children attend and its local authority, for the purpose of providing free school meals if entitlement is confirmed.

This includes re-applying for free school meals in future.

Signature

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Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

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## Important

Once completed, please give this form back to your children's school.

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