

6 July 2026

Free School Meals – Important Information for Families.

Dear parent/carer,

The department of Education (DfE) has confirmed significant changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility which will come into effect from September 2026. More information can be found [here](#)

Firstly, if your child is already receiving Free School Meals, there is nothing you need to do. The Local Authority already holds your information and will automatically check your child's eligibility ahead of their return to school in September 2026.

If your child has not been receiving a free school meal and you believe they may now be eligible, please read the information below.

From September 2026, the Government is extending eligibility for Free School Meals. This means that more families may now qualify for support, even if they have not previously been eligible.

All children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals. The current income cap is being removed.

What you need to do

- If you think you may now be eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit an application before the start of the new academic year.
- Applying usually only takes a few minutes by visiting <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>
- Applications are quick, confidential and securely processed
- If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, you **do not need to reapply**

Why it's important to apply

- Ensures your child receives all the support they are entitled to
- Helps the school access additional funding to support pupils
- May provide access to further support, such as help with trips or activities

If you would like further information or support with your application, please contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely,



Ruth Hodges
School Business Manager