



FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) IMPORTANT CHANGES

New eligibility rules are starting from the new academic year
(Targeted and Expanded)



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Please be aware that if your child is currently in receipt of FSM, this **will not automatically be protected** from the new academic year.



All parents/carers **must re-apply** to check updated eligibility.



If you have more than one child at the school, please complete the form for **each child**.



Your school is here to help. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

WHAT IS THE PUPIL PREMIUM (PP)?



The Pupil Premium is extra government money which is paid to schools to support children's learning and development.

Your child's school can support you in finding out if your child could receive the extra money.

Your child's school can choose how to best spend the Pupil Premium money and will work with you to make sure your child benefits from the extra funding.

WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS MONEY?

Children from the reception year to year 11 may be eligible if they:

- are registered for Free School Meals (FSM)
- have been registered for FSM at any point in the last 6 years
- are or have been in care
- have parents in the armed forces

★ *If your child could claim for FSM but takes a packed lunch to school, it's still important you tell their school. This will let them know your child is able to receive the Pupil Premium.

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR FSM?



Children who are registered for Free School Meals (FSM) are entitled to the Pupil Premium.

.....

Your child isn't automatically registered for FSM, even though all infant children are entitled to receive a free school meal.

NATIONAL CHANGES TO FSM ELIGIBILITY



The government intends to end the existing FSM transitional protections at the end of the 2025/26 academic year (8th July 2026).



These changes are being implemented by the government and may mean that more families qualify for support.



From the new academic year, all children in households that are in receipt of universal credit will qualify for FSM, regardless of income.



Any children who were previously rejected or not eligible for FSM can now reapply **AFTER Monday 1st June 2026** as they may now be eligible for FSM under the new 'expanded' FSM category.

ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES



TARGETED FSM

Based on the existing criteria for eligibility: pupils in households in receipt of universal credit and with an annual income of less than £7,400.



EXPANDED FSM

A new category which applies to meals only, covering pupils that do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households in receipt of universal credit, regardless of income level.

CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE – PLEASE APPLY



To help us carry out the necessary checks to ensure pupils receive their free school meal from the new academic year, please complete the online form using this link:

[Online FSM Application](#)

- ✓ Please complete if you are in receipt of Universal Credit only.
- ✓ Please also complete if your child already receives free school meals.



Completing the form only takes a few minutes and could make a big difference to the support and funding available for your child and their school.

