

Dear parents and carers,

We want to let you know about some changes to Free School Meals (FSM) starting in September 2026.

What's changing?

There will now be two types of Free School Meals:

Targeted FSM

- For families on Universal Credit earning **less than £7,400 a year**
- Children will get free school meals
- They can also take part in the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** programme
- The school will receive extra funding to support them

Expanded FSM

- For families on Universal Credit earning **more than £7,400 a year**
- Children will **still get free school meals only**

Important: All children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will still receive free meals, as they do now under the Universal Free School Meal eligibility (UFSM).

What this means for you

- If your child already gets Free School Meals, their eligibility will be **checked again** before the new school year.
- If the council does not have all your details, they may contact you to ask for updated information.
- If the council has your email address, they will let you know the outcome.

Please note: Some families may **no longer qualify** from September, as the previous protection rules are ending.

What you need to do

- If you have already applied and your details haven't changed, **you don't need to do anything right now.**
- If you have **never applied**, please do so—this includes children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:
<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/PortalHome/>
- Once your child's eligibility is confirmed, it will **last for the whole school year.**

Important reminder

If your child is in **Year 3 or above** and, after the check, is no longer entitled to free meals from September, please make sure you have arranged a packed lunch or paid meals ready for the new term.

We will be in touch with further information as we receive this from the government.

Kind regards.

