

"An Academy to be Proud of"

Headteacher | Dr J. Hutchinson, PhD, NPQH
Lytham Road | Blackpool | Lancashire, FY4 1TL
t: 01253 207702 | e: admin@armfield.fcat.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you of some important updates about Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will take effect on 1st September 2026. These changes follow a government announcement made in June 2025.

The great news is that starting from September 2026, all households receiving Universal Credit (UC) will qualify for free school meals, regardless of their earnings. However, please note that this new system will replace the "transactional protection" rules that have been in place since April 2018.

To make sure your child does not miss out, please look at the sections below to see what you need to do next.

If Your Child Currently Receives Free School Meals

If you already have an active entitlement to free school meals, **you will need to reapply** to keep receiving them if you have not already done so. To make sure your child's meals continue without any gaps, you must submit your application on or before 31st August 2026.

Please use this official link to apply:

Application Link: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/fcat>

Once you apply, your online result will show one of three things:

- **"Targeted FSM"**: This means your circumstances have not changed, and you continue to be entitled to free school meals just like now. Your new expiry date will be 31st August 2027.
- **"Expanded FSM"**: This means you are still receiving some element of Universal Credit, but your household circumstances have changed since April 2018. You will keep your entitlement until 31st August 2027.
- **"Not-Found"**: This means your circumstances changed since April 2018, and you are no longer entitled to Universal Credit. You will keep your current free school meals until 31st August 2026. From 1st September 2026, you will be required to pay for your child's meals in school.

If You Receive Universal Credit but Do Not Currently Get Free School Meals

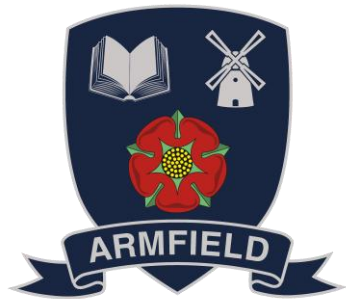
If you are on Universal Credit but your child does not currently receive free school meals, you are now encouraged to apply if you have not already done so.

Please use the application link below:

Application Link: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/fcat>

Depending on your household information, your result should be one of the following:

- **"Expanded FSM"**: This means you are still receiving some element of Universal Credit. Your children will be eligible for free school meals from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2026.
- **"Not-Found"**: This could be because you are a brand-new Universal Credit claimant, you have recently changed your address, or you have had another change in your circumstances.



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Other Important Information

- **Automatic Checks:** If you become ineligible because of these new updates, our systems will continue to check your eligibility on a regular basis. We will inform you right away if you become eligible again.
- **No Manual Assessments:** Please note that we will no longer be able to undertake manual reviews or assessments of your physical Universal Credit statements. Everything must be processed online through the application link.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and support in helping us get ready for these changes!

Warm regards,

